TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

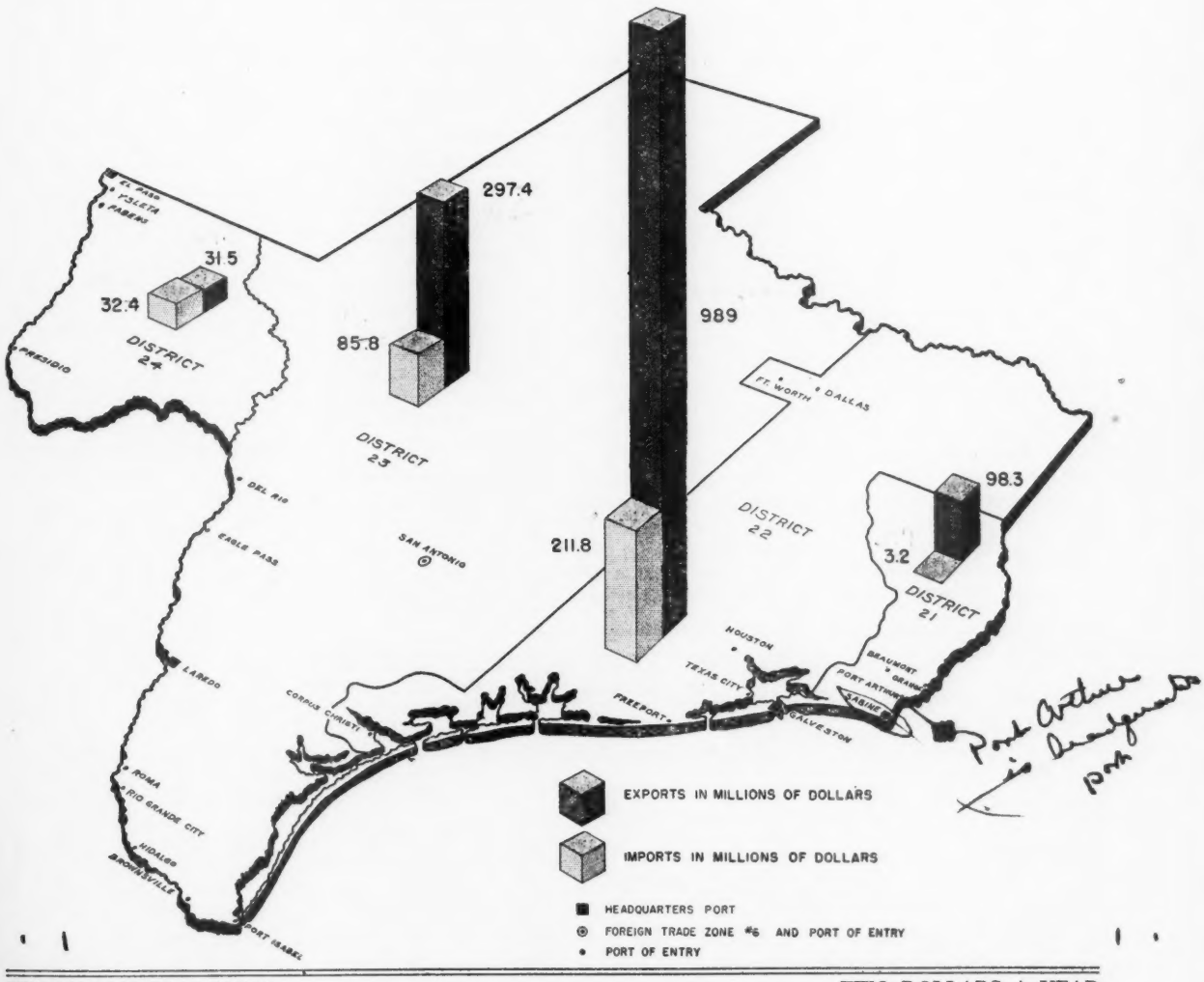
A MONTHLY SUMMARY OF BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS IN TEXAS

BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS

Vol. XXV, No. 7 AUGUST 1951

TEXAS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS, 1950

BY CUSTOMS DISTRICTS



TWENTY CENTS A COPY TWO DOLLARS A YEAR

The Business Situation in Texas

The level of Texas business remained nearly stationary in July, with the composite index of business activity declining 1% from the previous month after an increase of 1% in June. In fact, the over-all level of Texas business has remained practically unchanged since February. The March rise of 3% has been the only monthly change exceeding 1% during the six-month period. The net result is that the July level of 231 was only two points higher than the February value of 229.

The changes from June to July in the individual components of the index are shown in the table below and follow in general the trend of the last six months.

INDEX OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY IN TEXAS, AND COMPONENT SERIES, 1935–39=100
(adjusted for seasonal variation)

Series	Weight	July 1951	June 1951	Percent change
Retail sales, adjusted for for price changes	47.7	188*	194*	— 3
Industrial power consumtion	14.8	450	444	+ 1
Crude oil runs to stills	4.5	195	200	— 3
Electric power consumption	3.0	514	491	+ 5
Miscellaneous freight carloadings	17.6	144	147	— 2
Urban building permits, adjusted for price changes	3.8	145*	158	— 8
Crude petroleum production	8.6	226	221	+ 2
INDEX OF BUSINESS ACTIVITY (Composite)	100.0	231*	233*	— 1

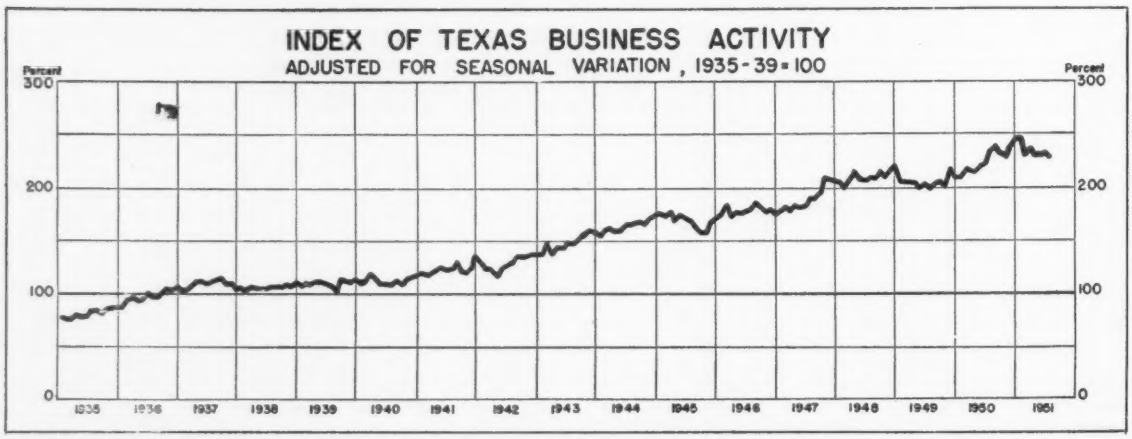
*Preliminary.

During the five months of relatively stable business activity, the individual components of the composite index have been undergoing consistently counterbalancing shifts. Building activity has shown a greater decline than any other component of the composite, with the index adjusted for changes in building costs declining from 329 in December 1950 to 145 in July 1951. Consumer expenditures have been declining steadily since the first of the year, with the Bureau's index of retail sales in July 16% below the peak reached in January. On the other hand, industrial activity has been increasing at a rate considerably greater than that at which retail sales have been declining. In December 1950, the index of industrial power consumption was 421, but by July it had advanced to 450, an increase of 7%. Total electric power consumption increased even more than industrial power, with the Bureau's index 15% higher in July 1951 than in December 1950. Miscellaneous freight carloadings fluctuated without showing any appreciable trend either up or down. The Bureau's index was 147 in December 1950 and 144 in July 1951.

Since the largest percentage of the income of the state is produced by businesses selling goods and services to consumers, this element in the composite index assumes an outstanding importance even though the changes in it may be less violent than in certain other phases of business. The Bureau's index of retail sales, representing the changes in all consumer expenditures, reflects the current buying actions of consumers, which, as was stated above, have been declining since last December. The July level of 388 for the index, adjusted for seasonal variation but not for changes in prices, is lower than any point reached by the index since the spring of 1950, while the index adjusted for price changes is at the lowest point reached since September 1947.

The decline in consumer buying is particularly strong in durable goods, for it was in this category of goods that the greatest scare buying occurred. In July 1950, the month after the Korean war started, the index of sales of durable-goods stores in Texas was 565% of the 1935–39 base and by January 1951 had risen to 611. However, after a six-month decline, July 1951 was down to 495, a drop of 6% between June and July.

While the decline in nondurable-goods stores has been less than in durable-goods stores, it has nevertheless been pronounced. In January 1951 the index was 381, and July 1951 was 341, declining 2% in the last month. However, neither the rise nor the decline was as sharp for nondurable- as durable-goods stores, and the July 1951 level was 1% higher than in June 1950.



The TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW is published by the Bureau of Business Research, College of Business Administration, The University of Texas. Entered as second-class matter on May 7, 1928 at the post office at Austin, Texas, under the act of August 24, 1912.

There seems to be good reason to believe that Texas merchants did not foresee the decline in consumer demand, since retail inventories were built up until this summer when stocks were uncomfortably high in many lines. Between the end of May and the end of June, retail and wholesale inventories for the country as a whole dropped slightly, and strong sales promotions during the summer give promise of working down excess inventories in satisfactory fashion. Production of goods has slowed down, and it appears that production will continue to decline somewhat in the immediate future. Estimates of the Federal Reserve index of industrial production indicate a decline from 222 in June to 215 in July.

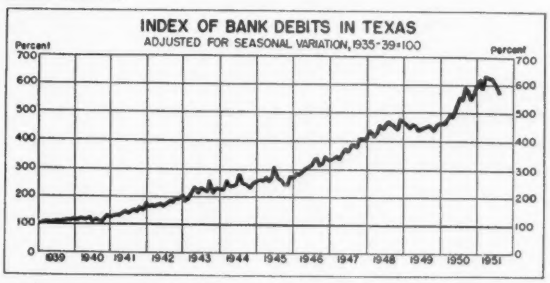
The most dynamic segment of the economy of Texas is the spending of the federal government on the expanding rearmament program and the spending of business concerns in expanding their capital assets in expectation of more defense business. A substantial portion of the government's defense spending is in the Southwest, and an equally significant portion of new capital investment is being made in Texas industry.

Estimates by the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Department of Commerce indicate that new plant and equipment expenditures of business concerns in the United States during the second quarter of 1951 established a new record, 48% above the second quarter of 1950. Outlays for manufacturing facilities, representing slightly more than half of the total, were 74% greater than in the second quarter of last year. The rate of investment in these fixed assets during the second quarter of 1951 was 34% greater than in 1948, the peak year in postwar expansion in capital goods. While no data are available for Texas alone, the expansion in facilities that has taken place in the state probably has been at a rate that equals or exceeds that attained elsewhere.

The strength of these two elements of the business situation has been sufficient to keep incomes of consumers at an increasingly high level, in spite of the weakening in the volume of retail and wholesale trade. With employment and wages at high levels, and farm income exceeding last year's, income of consumers in Texas may be expected to follow the trend of the national figures. For the United States, disposable personal income in the second quarter of 1951 was at an annual rate of $222.8 billion per year, compared with a rate of $217.2 billion in the first quarter and an annual income of $204.3 billion in 1950. These data represent the amount of income less taxes and constitute the amount of purchasing power that is either spent or saved. Income for the second quarter of 1951 increased 2.4% over the first quarter, but at the same time personal consumption declined 2.5%. This resulted in personal net savings in the second quarter that were more than twice the savings in the first. The savings rate in the second quarter was greater than at any time since 1944, when the people saved because goods they wanted were not available.

Since the continued rise in government and business spending may be expected to hold consumer income high, it appears highly likely that consumer spending will not continue long at the reduced rate of the second quarter and the first month of the third quarter. This indicates that the volume of wholesale and retail trade may be expected to end its decline before many months, and if this component of the business index rises strongly, it appears likely that the composite index of Texas business will show a change from the horizontal movement of the past few months.

Building continues to show the greatest decline of any of the major components of Texas business; apparently this decline results from several factors acting together. There is some evidence that the great backlog of demand for housing created by the war has been met. At the same time that this influence began to be felt, the restrictive measures resulting from the present emergency made their appearance. Credit restrictions and shortages of materials are now important factors in the building situation, and the result has been a precipitous drop in the number of new building projects started in Texas. The July value of the Bureau's index of building permits issued was 299, a drop of more than 50% from the 664 reached by the index in December 1950. For the first seven months of 1951, total value of building permits declined 14% from the same period of 1950. However, residential construction for this seven-month period was 23% below last year, while nonresidential construction was 3% higher. For the country as a whole, privately financed residential construction declined, while other private construction and total public construction continued to increase. There is good reason to believe that these trends will continue in the future.



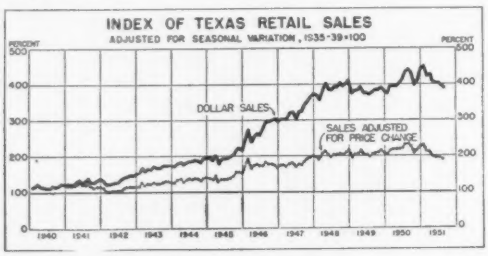
The Bureau's index of bank debits in Texas cities registered another sharp decline in July, bringing the index to a point only 4% above a year ago. Fluctuations in this index usually parallel very closely the composite index of business, but during the spring of 1951 the index of bank debits continued close to the peak levels of the winter, while the composite index of business was declining. Now it appears that the index of bank debits is feeling the effects of the forces that brought the composite down several months earlier. Except for the fact that the index of bank debits reflects the changes in the price level as well as the physical volume of business, it should move in very much the same pattern as the composite index of business.

Inflation continues to worry some businessmen, but apparently the majority of them consider that the broad decline in wholesale prices is not due for an immediate reversal. The weekly wholesale price index of the Bureau of Labor Statistics declined steadily throughout July, from 180.2 on July 3 to 177.9 on July 31.

RETAIL TRADE

In the present "obstacle race," merchants are trying to leap the high hurdles set by last summer's scare buying, hobbled meanwhile by price and credit controls, higher expenses and rising taxes, and numerous increasing uncertainties. Retail sales are down from June and from last year's exceptional summer figures. But retail activity in many lines is well sustained in terms of any "normal."

Prophesied shortages of merchandise, even in some lines of durable goods, have not yet appeared as a significant factor in curbing sales volume. Merchants continue to buy on an item-to-item basis. For example, present demand for furniture at wholesale is reported as the smallest in ten years. Buyers appear complacent as to possibilities of replacing stocks when the present bloated inventories have responded to a "reducing diet" as well as to strenuous exercise in the form of unusually heavy seasonal stock-reduction sales. Customers have shown high indifference to the process, responding only to exceptional discount offers and to other tempting price reductions. Even these have rapidly lost their pulling power.



Because of the overhanging inventories at wholesale and retail, many manufacturers have cut production, although some have first built up heavy stocks. Some observers fear that a strong seasonal resumption of buying this autumn may find many merchants handicapped in a scramble for replacement goods.

Credit restrictions evidently have cut into residential construction and into sales of furnishings and home equipment. Most customers are believed not to have available, or to be unwilling to release from recently depleted savings, the large down payments required. But sales of smaller appliances not subject to controls are equally slowed. Are not customers pretty well "bought up ahead"? And is not the recent liberalization of Regulation W under Congressional pressure too late to be of particular benefit? A slight easing in credit terms is not likely to accomplish much after customers have become case-hardened through substantial price reductions of various types. Many consumers are apparently repairing the gaps in their savings while maintaining their "sit-this-one-out" attitude in expectation of continuing or still greater price reductions. The cry of "Wolf! Wolf!" as concerns inflation is stirring but little response among merchants and customers alike.

Sales on credit as percentages of total retail sales have been decreasing since September 1950, supposedly reflecting the restrictions of Regulation W on installment purchases. But collections fell in May and in December 1950 to a five-year low point and are remaining low. To what extent may customers have transferred their installment buying to regular thirty-day accounts, and are they riding them through delayed payments?

Business in some lines is decidedly down from recent peaks. Defense production, months behind original schedule, would likely proceed at a more leisurely pace in case of a Korean armistice. Spotty areas of unemployment, due to lags in conversion, will slow sales volume for some regions. But continuing defense employment, high farm income, and strong demand for petroleum, cotton, chemicals, and other Texas products should assure good business well into 1952. Some business economists foresee reduced private capital expenditures, smaller employment, and lagging business by middle or late 1952, with present temporary deflationary forces continuing to dominate. Others, especially

ESTIMATES OF TOTAL RETAIL SALES
(in millions)

Type of store	July 1951	Jan-July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	July 1951 from June 1951	Jan-July 1951 from Jan-July 1950
TOTAL	$509.6	$3,807.8	— 15	— 5	+ 2
Durable goods	213.9	1,590.4	— 25	— 6	— 1
Nondurable goods	295.7	2,217.4	— 7	— 5	+ 4

RETAIL SALES TRENDS BY CITY-SIZE GROUPS
Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Population*	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	July 1951 from June 1951	Jan-July 1951 from Jan-July 1950
Over 2,500	998	— 16	— 7	+ 6
100,000 to 250,000	343	— 21	— 5	— 1
50,000 to 100,000	260	— 17	— 6	+ 5
2,500 to 50,000	864	— 22	— 7	— 1
Under 2,500	120	— 16	— 10	+ 6

*Preliminary 1950 Census.

RETAIL SALES TRENDS BY KIND OF BUSINESS
Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce

Kind of business	Number of reporting establishments	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	July 1951 from June 1951	Jan-July 1951 from Jan-July 1950
Apparel stores	240	— 4	— 8	+ 7
Automotive stores	251	— 30	— 5	— 2
Country general stores	55	+ 4	— 11	+ 15
Department stores	95	+ 18	— 9	+ 2
Drug stores	169	+ 7	— 3	+ 8
Eating and drinking places	116	+ 9	x	+ 10
Filling stations	677	— 13	— 1	+ 6
Florists	44	+ 14	— 11	+ 4
Food stores	222	+ 2	— 5	+ 14
Furniture and household appliance stores	160	— 28	— 3	— 7
General merchandise stores	60	— 8	— 15	+ 5
Jewelry stores	37	— 11	— 15	+ 10
Liquor stores	28	— 13	— 5	+ 2
Lumber, building material and hardware stores	314	— 19	— 7	+ 6
Office, store and school supply dealers	43	+ 16	— 10	+ 26

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

CREDIT RATIOS IN DEPARTMENT AND APPAREL STORES
(in percent)

Classification	Number of reporting stores	Ratio of credit sales to net sales*		Ratio of collections to outstandings†	
		July 1951	July 1950	July 1951	July 1950
ALL STORES	72	62.3	66.1	45.5	46.1
BY CITIES					
Austin	7	56.4	58.8	52.5	54.9
Bryan	3	51.3	52.9	46.7	46.6
Cleburne	3	35.5	41.0	38.9	45.2
Corpus Christi	3	55.2	64.9	45.7	48.4
Dallas	10	72.3	73.3	45.4	48.5
Denison	3	48.0	64.5	32.4	43.3
El Paso	3	52.8	56.1	35.1	32.9
Fort Worth	4	61.3	67.8	48.9	46.4
Galveston	3	55.6	61.9	52.5	53.7
Houston	8	63.7	66.0	43.4	45.5
San Antonio	5	59.5	66.4	47.6	46.6
Waco	5	56.6	60.3	51.5	52.6
Other	15	58.8	59.2	46.8	46.7
BY TYPE OF STORE					
Department stores (over $1 million)	23	64.8	68.7	44.1	44.7
Department stores (under $1 million)	11	50.1	52.9	42.8	45.2
Dry goods and apparel stores	5	67.7	70.1	56.7	58.1
Women's specialty shops	21	52.1	55.4	48.9	49.3
Men's clothing stores	12	63.0	63.2	53.8	54.9
BY VOLUME OF NET SALES (1950)					
Over $3,000,000	20	64.9	68.7	44.5	45.2
$1,500,000 to $3,000,000	9	56.7	59.3	51.7	51.4
$500,000 to $1,500,000	22	53.5	55.5	49.3	50.1
$250,000 to $500,000	14	38.6	42.4	45.8	48.3
Less than $250,000	7	42.0	43.5	41.6	46.1

*Credit sales divided by net sales.

†Collections during the month divided by the total accounts unpaid on the first of the month.

government seers, speak of a period of "sideways readjustment," warning stridently of inflationary pressures already beginning to seep back to the surface of buying activities in some lines, with a possible highly stimulating effect on prices.

After several months of downward tendency, wholesale prices have begun to level off. Retail prices in July fell 0.1% from June, according to the Fairchild Publications Retail Price Index. This was the first drop since October 1949. Several months of weakening retail prices are probably in prospect. However, retail prices at July 1 were still 7.3% over a year ago and 4.6% above the 1948 high point.

Other problems perplexing merchants include these matters: *(a)* How far will changes in regulations under the revised Federal Controls Law permit manufacturers to increase prices, and what degree of customer resistance to price rises is likely? *(b)* What relief, through simplified records and reporting, will such regulations afford the typical small retailer? *(c)* Will customers' buying apathy evaporate and their rising incomes become effective with seasonal fall buying, reducing present severe markdowns, and promising profits that are less anemic? *(d)* To what extent will recent price declines in wholesale markets need to be reflected at retail before recovery follows? *(e)* How far is it to go in providing broad assortments for customers' choices, in contrast to streamlining stocks? *(f)* How long and how severe may be any slackening in customers' purchasing in relation to a Korean ceasefire? *(g)* How soon may the predicted manpower shortage require use of "marginal" help in the stores?

Advertising linage in 31 Texas newspapers in July averaged 6% below May. Linage for July 1951 topped that of July 1950 by 4%, in contrast with a decrease of 3.4% nationally. Of the 31 papers, only six reported increases from June, but 20 bettered July 1950 linage.

Postal receipts of 96 Texas cities in July totaled 1% over June and 9% above July 1950. Among the cities, 24 reported decreases for July from June, but only 19 fell below in the 1950–51 comparison.

Sales of gasoline subject to tax totaled 261,393,000 gallons in June, 7% over May and 3% above June 1950. Sales to the federal government amounted to 61,163,000 gallons, nearly 3.5 times the amount sold in May and 47% over June 1950.

POSTAL RECEIPTS

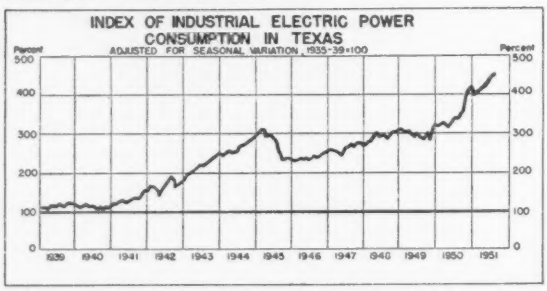
City	July 1951	June 1951	July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
TOTAL*	$4,196,867	$4,145,269	$3,842,474	+ 9	+ 1
Arlington	5,962	5,288	3,998	+ 49	+ 13
Bastrop	1,446	1,672	1,421	+ 2	— 14
Borger	12,414	9,944	10,144	+ 22	+ 25
Brownfield	6,611	4,292	3,687	+ 79	+ 54
Cameron	3,155	4,720	3,272	— 4	— 33
Childress	4,489	3,780	4,459	+ 1	+ 19
Cisco	3,937	3,454	3,364	+ 17	+ 14
Cleburne	7,432	7,469	6,894	+ 8	x
Coleman	4,189	4,430	4,185	x	— 5
Cotulla	1,145	1,294	1,313	— 13	— 12
Crystal City	2,272	1,912	1,894	+ 20	+ 19
Cuero	4,189	3,634	3,564	+ 18	+ 15
Edinburg	7,127	7,152	5,979	+ 19	x
El Campo	5,432	5,832	5,082	+ 7	— 7
Gainesville	7,204	6,625	6,898	+ 4	+ 9
Garland	6,830	6,529	5,104	+ 34	+ 5
Giddings	1,928	1,727	1,709	+ 13	+ 12
Gladewater	4,348	4,692	4,165	+ 4	— 7
Goldthwaite	1,358	1,385	1,515	— 10	— 2
Granbury	1,129	924	1,027	+ 10	+ 22
Hillsboro	4,172	3,978	4,621	— 10	+ 5
Jacksonville	8,043	7,577	6,977	+ 15	+ 6
Kenedy	2,639	2,511	1,748	+ 51	+ 5
Kerrville	7,173	7,170	7,130	+ 1	x
La Grange	3,141	3,803	3,133	x	— 17
Lampasas	3,047	3,017	2,949	+ 3	+ 1
Littlefield	4,230	3,243	3,923	+ 8	+ 30
Llano	1,651	1,069	1,285	+ 28	+ 54
Luling	2,665	2,303	2,167	+ 23	+ 16
McKinney	6,002	5,941	5,873	+ 2	+ 1
Mission	5,875	5,437	5,599	+ 5	+ 8
Nacogdoches	8,144	8,242	6,331	+ 29	— 1
Navasota	3,075	3,287	2,196	+ 40	— 6
New Braunfels	8,526	8,271	8,681	— 2	+ 3
Orange	12,085	11,167	11,989	+ 1	+ 8
Palestine	8,575	7,827	7,624	+ 12	+ 10
Pampa	12,207	11,902	12,202	x	+ 3
Pasadena	9,525	9,763	7,547	+ 26	— 2
Pecos	6,275	6,694	5,978	+ 5	— 6
Snyder	8,881	7,879	9,193	— 3	+ 13
Sweetwater	9,901	8,410	10,590	— 7	+ 18
Uvalde	6,001	4,378	4,251	+ 41	+ 37
Vernon	9,114	7,592	8,512	+ 7	+ 20
Yoakum	7,977	7,714	8,450	— 6	+ 3

*The total includes receipts for cities which are listed individually under "Local Business Conditions."

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION

Manufacturing activity in Texas during July, measured by industrial consumption of electric power, rose 4% above the preceding month. The month's industrial consumption of 456,171,000 kilowatt hours was 32% more than in July 1950. Reports from 10 electric power companies to the Bureau of Business Research also indicate rises of 12% in total power consumption over June, 14% in commercial consumption, 21% in residential, and 23% in other electric power consumption. Federal Power Commission figures show a 6% increase in electric power production in Texas during June, although total United States production remained at the May level. Texas production totaled 1.8 billion kilowatt hours as compared with the nation's total of slightly less than 35 billion kilowatt hours.



Cement production and stocks rose slightly during June, but shipments dipped 3%. At the same time, lumber production and shipments reported by Southern Pine Mills dropped 15%, as gross stocks climbed 4% to a total of 1,568 million board feet by the end of June. The slowdown in private and nonessential construction, forced by shortages and government regulations, has had its effect on the market for construction materials.

TEXAS INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY

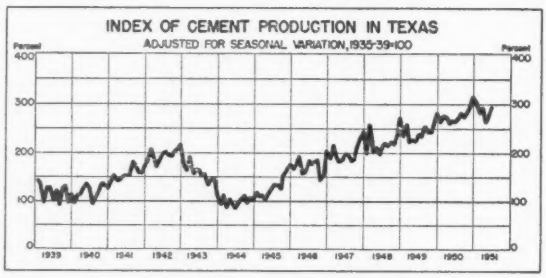
Source: Bureau of Mines and Bureau of the Census

Item	June 1951	May 1951	June 1950	Percent change: June 1951 from June 1950	Percent change: June 1951 from May 1951
Cement (1,000 barrels)					
Production	1,547	1,531	1,397	+ 11	+ 1
Shipments	1,534	1,584	1,438	+ 7	— 3
Stocks	622	609	606	+ 3	+ 2
Cottonseed (tons)					
Received at mills	3,724	1,877	19,863	— 81	+ 98
Crushed	22,297	36,887	102,527	— 78	— 39
Stocks*	20,795	39,368	198,812	— 90	— 47
Wheat					
Ground (1,000 bushels)	2,055	2,219	2,717	— 24	— 7
Flour (1,000 sacks)	875	958	1,168	— 25	— 9

*End of month.

Telephones in service in 40 Texas cities reached 1,339,808 in July, edging upward 2% during the month. The total represented a 9% increase over July of last year.

With the nation's steel industry producing at about 102% of rated ingot capacity, the defense armament scramble is now well under way. There is considerable divergence in opinions concerning the effect of the defense program on automobile production during the last quarter of the year. Third-quarter production has



LUMBER PRODUCTION IN SOUTHERN PINE MILLS

(in millions of board feet)

Source: Southern Pine Association

Item	June 1951	May 1951	June 1950	Percent change: June 1951 from June 1950	Percent change: June 1951 from May 1951
Production	695	816	797	— 13	— 15
Shipments	637	750	859	— 26	— 15
Gross stocks*	1,568	1,510	1,471	+ 7	+ 4

*End of month.

been set at 1.2 million for passenger cars, approximately two-thirds of the pre-Korean output. Production for the year to mid-July was 3,259,311 passenger cars and 831,766 trucks as compared with 3,368,173 passenger cars and 706,862 trucks built during the first half of 1950.

Purchase of land has begun for the construction of a $100-million aluminum processing plant near Rockdale in Milam County. The new plant, with an estimated production capacity of 85,000 long tons of aluminum, will use nearby deposits of lignite for fuel. Meanwhile, construction is well under way on another large aluminum plant in San Patricio County, scheduled to begin operation in January 1952. This plant, near Corpus Christi, will use natural gas for fuel, and its annual production is estimated at 150 million pounds.

The Defense Production Administration has announced that, as of July 16, certificates of necessity in the amount of $801 million for new or expanded plants manufacturing products related to the defense effort have been issued to Texas industries since the Korean outbreak. This figure places Texas second only to Pennsylvania, which had a total of $1,068 million. According to the DPA, 126 certificates of necessity were granted for expanded industrialization in the state, and the majority of these were for new plants. Early in July the Defense

MANUFACTURE OF DAIRY PRODUCTS

Products	Unit (000's)	July 1951	January-July 1951	January-July 1950	Percent change
Creamery butter	lbs.	653	4,538	9,225	— 51
Ice cream	gals.	3,313	15,001	13,915	+ 8
American cheese	lbs.	599	2,673	3,350	— 20
Cottage cheese	lbs.	482	3,898	3,472	+ 20
All others	lbs.	3,275	17,202	26,675	— 36
Total production in milk equivalent*	lbs.	66,570	338,664	449,722	— 25

*Milk equivalent of dairy products is calculated from production data.

ELECTRIC POWER CONSUMPTION*

(in thousands of kilowatt-hours)

Use	July 1951	June 1951	July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
TOTAL	1,023,448	916,116	806,559	+ 27	+ 12
Commercial	224,954	197,518	191,754	+ 17	+ 14
Industrial	456,171	438,016	345,286	+ 32	+ 4
Residential	177,544	146,150	146,625	+ 21	+ 21
Other	164,779	134,432	122,894	+ 34	+ 23

*Prepared from reports of 10 electric power companies to the Bureau of Business Research.

Mobilizer announced a 60-day suspension of the granting of new certificates. Meanwhile, the DPA is reviewing the administrative procedures and criteria on which certificates are to be granted and the percentages of the cost of new plants or plant expansions that may be amortized over a five-year period instead of the normal 20- to 25-year period.

Construction of the Falcon Dam, 75 miles below Laredo, is reportedly ahead of schedule. The five-mile dam, to be the largest in the Western Hemisphere when completed in 1953, will have power plants in both the United States and Mexico. This project will substantially increase the electric power service in the Rio Grande Valley in addition to furnishing water for irrigation.

TOTAL AND MARKETED PRODUCTION OF NATURAL GAS

(in millions of cubic feet)

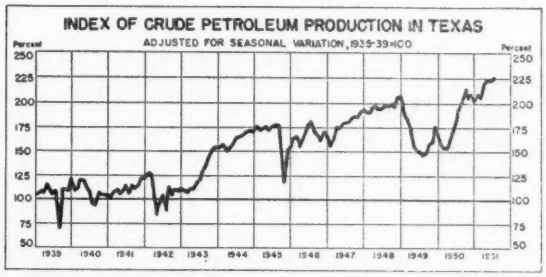
Source: Railroad Commission of Texas, Oil and Gas Division

Item	June 1951	May 1951	June 1950	Percent change: June 1951 from June 1950	Percent change: June 1951 from May 1951
TOTAL PRODUCTION	370,354	384,881	318,083	+ 16	— 4
Gas well gas	273,173	285,186	242,029	+ 13	— 4
Sweet	244,707	254,585	214,173	+ 14	— 4
Sour	28,466	30,601	27,856	+ 2	— 7
Casinghead gas*	97,181	99,695	76,054	+ 28	— 3
Marketed production	302,352	308,907	244,584	+ 24	— 2
Gas well gas	206,035	216,684	178,257	+ 16	— 5
Casinghead gas	84,692	86,948	64,804	+ 31	— 3
Comingled gas†	11,625	5,278	1,523	.....	.....
Exported from state	138,200	142,264	102,479	+ 35	— 3
Percent of marketed production	46	46	42	+ 10	0
To carbon black manufacture	26,450	27,424	23,744	+ 11	— 4
Transmission lines	216,553	219,323	166,953	+ 30	— 1
Consumed in state	78,353	77,059	64,474	+ 22	+ 2
Exported from state	138,200	142,264	102,479	+ 35	— 3

*Total casinghead gas produced, excluding gas legally vented at the oil well.

†Casinghead and gas well gas combined in gasoline plant operations.

The petroleum industry is confronted with uncertainties resulting from the unsettled Iranian problem and a strike which has been called at the Aruba refinery in the West Indies. The shutdown of the world's largest refinery at Abadan and the cutback from 400,000 barrels a day to 285,000 barrels at the world's second largest refinery at Aruba has created a tight situation in crude oil for European countries. Other factors which are further complicating the petroleum picture for Texas and the nation are the possibility of a cease-fire order

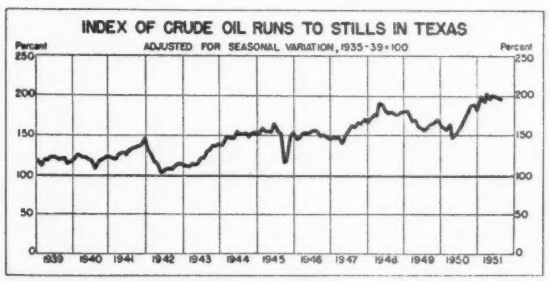


in Korea and difficulties of obtaining adequate supplies of steel for drilling, storage, and pipe lines.

At the August proration hearing in Abilene, Texas, Railroad Commissioners met with representatives of major crude purchasing companies and officials of the production department of the Petroleum Administration for Defense. Based upon the testimony presented at this meeting the Railroad Commissioners set an allowable of 3,059,367 barrels a day for the 30-day month of September, based on a producing pattern of 24 days for the state in general, 19 days for the East Texas Field, 14 for Pantex Field, and 22 for Seminole. This allowable calls for a slight increase over August production of about 77,000 barrels daily.

TEXAS PETROLEUM ALLOWABLES

Railrod Commission of Texas Oil and Gas Districts	September allowable (barrels)	Change (barrels)
1. Southwest	37,504	+ 407
2. Southwest	175,303	+ 5,235
3. Gulf Coast	524,014	+ 11,752
4. Southwest	281,187	+ 7,105
5. East Central	59,639	+ 1,622
6. East Texas Outside	124,613	+ 3,355
6. East Texas Field	282,478	+ 8,586
7B. West Central	104,048	+ 2,075
7C. West Central	115,546	+ 2,813
8. West Texas	1,053,059	+ 30,507
9. North Texas	199,647	+ 3,396
10. Panhandle	102,329	+ 8
TOTAL	3,059,367	+ 76,861



Texas now has a backlog of some 255,000 barrels of crude oil, and United States crude stocks at the end of July stood at 251.1 million barrels, up 7 million since the end of June. However, the production department of the PAD estimates that the world-wide deficit in crude stocks for August will be about 150,000 barrels daily, but if an agreement is reached in Iran by September 1, a workable supply situation could be restored by the end of the year. Other main points of the PAD analysis:

If an agreement is reached by October 1, it will be necessary to increase the diversion rate from the United

States and Canada by 115,000 barrels daily above the August rate of 75,000 barrels, and the September working supply will again be tight but workable.

If an agreement is reached by November 1, the supply situation will be difficult, and it will probably be necessary to require some increase in crude production and refinery runs here.

If an agreement is reached by December 1, there is every indication that it will be difficult to meet the United States domestic requirement and make up the deficit created by the Iranian shutdown. At that time, maximum crude production and refinery operations would be required to supply sufficient petroleum to meet the world-wide demand.

If an agreement is not reached until the end of the year or later, it will be impossible to supply the world-wide demand, even with the United States domestic industry operating at maximum capacity.

British companies are buying cargoes of petroleum products of all types in the United States market. American companies are carrying out joint-plan action to make adjustments in international petroleum trade.

WELL COMPLETIONS

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

District	July 1951*				January-July	
	Total	Oil	Gas	Dry	1951	1950
TEXAS	1,312	751	54	507	9,429	9,311
North Central Texas	375	160	2	213	2,875	2,852
West Texas	396	302	2	92	2,844	2,747
Panhandle	47	26	13	8	387	540
Eastern Texas	99	73	1	25	692	661
Texas Gulf Coast	188	87	21	80	1,328	1,310
Southwest Texas	207	103	15	89	1,303	1,201

*For four weeks ending July 28, 1951.

This involves such activities as rerouting of tankers at sea and pooling by American companies of their petroleum products so that areas that develop spot shortages can be quickly supplied. Authorization to carry out these operations was obtained in advance from the Department of Justice because the companies feared that they would be charged with violation of antitrust laws.

The principal difficulty that is being created by the shut-downs at Abadan and Aruba is the loss of their tremendous refinery production. It is believed that crude oil production can be stepped up rapidly in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia to make up much of the deficit in crude oil. The replacement of the 500,000-barrel refinery capacity at Abadan will be more difficult, and this situation is further aggravated by the loss of all or part of the 400,000-barrel refinery capacity at Aruba as long as the strike there lasts. The immediate impact of the permanent loss of Iranian oil would be a spurt in refinery construction, chiefly in Europe and the Middle East; the curtailment of imports to this country, particularly of fuel oil; and a marked increase in the export of refined products from this country. British industrial leaders are reported to believe that approximately 200,000 barrels of refined products daily can be obtained through emergency measures within the Eastern Hemisphere. An additional quantity of approximately 300,000 barrels will have to be met by exports from the Western Hemisphere. Texas is expected to be the principal supplier of any increase in United States exports.

The largest part of the Abadan refinery's production is fuel oil, the product which is imported in the greatest volume into this country. The United States obtains most of its fuel-oil imports from Caribbean refineries, which at present have little unused refining capacity. Diversion of Caribbean fuel oil to Europe undoubtedly would tighten the American market. In early July, United States imports of residual fuel oil were down markedly, probably an indirect result of the curtailment in refining activities at Abadan.

At the same time that the situation in the Far East is causing an increase in the demand for United States oil, the possibility of a cease-fire in Korea may have an effect of reducing the military demand for domestic production. However, military demand is running at only about 5% of domestic production, so that even a very sharp decrease would have little effect on the over-all demand.

The tight steel situation is continuing to present serious problems for the oil and gas industry. The principal bottleneck is a shortage of large-diameter steel pipe. The Secretary of the Interior has disclosed that the fourth-quarter allotment of steel for the oil and gas industry is likely to be cut substantially below that requested by the PAD, and that failure to get more steel may create a very tight oil supply situation in the next year.

REFINERY STOCKS*

(in thousands of barrels)

Source: *The Oil and Gas Journal*

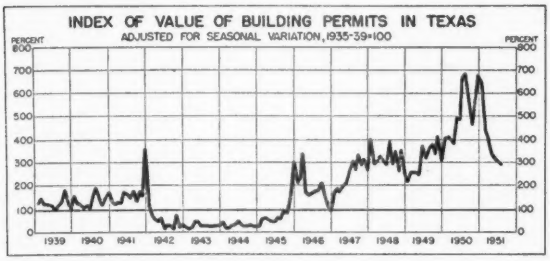
Item	July 1951	June 1951	July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
TEXAS					
Gasoline	21,393	21,931	19,958	+ 7	— 2
Distillate	11,334	9,222	10,943	+ 4	+ 23
Residual	5,908	5,369	5,776	+ 2	+ 10
Kerosene	5,002	4,609	4,929	+ 1	+ 9
TEXAS GULF COAST					
Gasoline	17,893	18,511	16,803	+ 6	— 3
Distillate	10,026	8,018	9,676	+ 4	+ 25
Residual	4,888	4,547	5,002	— 2	+ 7
Kerosene	4,499	4,167	4,315	+ 4	+ 8
INLAND TEXAS					
Gasoline	3,500	3,420	3,155	+ 11	+ 2
Distillate	1,308	1,204	1,267	+ 3	+ 9
Residual	1,020	822	774	+ 32	+ 24
Kerosene	503	442	614	— 18	+ 14

*Figures shown for week ending nearest last day of month.

Refining activity in Texas showed a 2% increase in July over June, but this was some 3% less than the usual seasonal increase at this time of year. During the past year, however, refining activity in Texas has exhibited a substantial growth of 19%. Texas refinery stocks increased 6% in July to 44 million barrels but at this level they are only 5% above July of last year. Stocks of distillate and residual fuel oil showed increases of 23 and 10%, respectively. It should be noted that the impact of the Iranian oil situation had not made itself felt in this country during the period covered by these statistics.

CONSTRUCTION

Privately financed construction activity in Texas during July was at its lowest ebb since May 1949. The preliminary estimates of urban building authorized in July fell to $38,332,000, the lowest July figure in five years. This represents a decrease of 14% from June 1951 ($44,757,000) and a severe drop of 54% from last July ($84,195,000). All categories shared the slump from June, the biggest decrease occurring in nonhousekeeping residential buildings (39%).



ESTIMATES OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED BY CITY-SIZE GROUPS

(in thousands)

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Population†	July 1951*	January-July 1951	January-July 1950	Percent change
TOTAL	$38,332	$404,275	$471,351	— 14
Over 100,000	19,911	204,693	217,587	— 6
50,000 to 100,000	5,197	66,297	89,256	— 26
25,000 to 50,000	3,232	30,865	44,395	— 30
Under 25,000	9,992	102,420	120,113	— 15

Only building for which building permits were issued within the incorporated area of the city is included. Federal contracts are excluded.
*Preliminary.
†1940 Census.

Starts of private housing in Texas totaled 3,099 during the month of July, 12% fewer than in June 1951 and 52% below last July. However, the total number of dwelling units started in June 1951 reached an all-time high—12,633. This includes 9,113 publicly-financed dwelling units and 3,520 private housing units. Dallas led the list in public housing with 4,322 units; San Antonio listed 775; Austin, 520; and Galveston, 496.

The preliminary index of value of building permits issued in Texas, after adjustment for seasonal variation, fell to 258, an 18% drop from June and a 55% decline from last July. The average monthly index for 1951 stood at 406. With the building cost index up 6%, the deflated index which is adjusted for price changes was lowered 58% below last year's level.

Construction contracts awarded in Texas during the month of July, as computed by the Dodge Statistical Research Service, totaled $96,936,000, only 2% down from June. Residential construction was $44,597,000, nonresidential building was $38,223,000, and public works and utilities were $14,116,000. The first-seven-month total of 1951 amounted to $858,993,000, a 48% increase over the $579,978,000 of the same period last year.

The total number of dwelling units provided in all residential and combination and converted projects was reported by the Dodge Service to be 4,832 for July 1951, 3% above last year.

New construction put in place in the United States during July 1951 was valued at $2.8 billion, according to the joint release of the Departments of Labor and Commerce. This represents increases of 3% over both June 1951 and July 1950. Private construction contributed $1.9 billion while public construction amounted to $932 million.

Abandoning its previous regulations, the National Production Authority issued Order M-4A, which imposes complete controls on the construction industry in order to make drastic cuts in nondefense construction. Thus far, this is the most rigid control NPA has imposed. It is designed to divert scarce metals into defense production. All new construction will be frozen until October 1, unless the projects use only minor quantities of steel, copper, and aluminum. It will hit hardest at hotels, offices, schools, large apartments, and nondefense plants that consume more than the set amount of critical materials. These materials may be obtained only through government allocation. The construction of low-cost homes will not be affected by this order. Allotments of steel total 180,000 tons for home construction in the last quarter of 1951, enough for 155,000 housing units.

ESTIMATES OF BUILDING PERMITS ISSUED BY TYPE OF CONSTRUCTION

(in thousands)

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Type of construction	July 1951*	January-July 1951	January-July 1950	Percent change
TOTAL	$38,332	$404,275	$471,351	— 14
New construction	32,393	358,652	424,478	— 23
Residential	20,025	237,387	306,869	— 23
Housekeeping	19,895	235,223	303,483	— 22
Single family	17,440	216,929	270,560	— 20
Multiple family	2,455	18,294	32,923	— 44
Nonhousekeeping	130	2,164	3,386	— 36
Nonresidential	12,368	121,265	117,609	+ 3
Additions, alterations and repairs	5,939	45,623	46,873	— 3

Only building for which building permits were issued within the incorporated area of the city is included. Federal contracts are excluded.
*Preliminary.

Home-building in the nation continued its high level through June and July. Housing starts in June reached 130,000, of which 43,200 units (32%) were public housing projects. The pace slowed to 86,000 housing starts in July. However, the seven-month total of 1951 was 669,500; and compared with the 850,000 units for the year predicted by government officials earlier this year, there would be only 180,500 units left for the builders to start in the next five months. It was believed by government housing officials last month that the total housing starts will reach one million, about 15% more than originally planned for 1951.

AGRICULTURE

The unadjusted index of farm cash income in Texas for July was 415, a considerable gain over the 325 recorded for the corresponding period last year. These figures, not adjusted for seasonal variation, were obtained by expressing the total income in July as a percent of the average monthly income from 1935 through 1939.

Texas farmers and ranchers received 36% more income in the first seven months of 1951 than they did during the corresponding period last year. The income from the marketings of livestock increased over 1950 by a considerable amount. Income from the sales of calves, up 123% over 1950, represents the largest increase. Significant increases were also recorded for mohair, wool, milk, and milk products. The production of wheat and flaxseed is reflected by decreases in income from 1950 of 59 and 95%, respectively. Other decreases of less significance were recorded for cotton, cottonseed, oats, fruits, and vegetables.

FARM CASH INCOME*

(In thousands)

Commodity	January-July 1951	January-July 1950	Percent change
TEXAS	$731,367	$536,515	+ 36
Cotton	56,053	76,062	— 26
Cottonseed	11,201	12,017	— 7
Wheat	17,673	43,625	— 59
Oats	5,770	6,288	— 8
Corn	9,787	6,995	+ 40
Mohair	6,886	3,535	+ 95
Wool	38,068	24,928	+ 53
Grain sorghum	35,723	12,739	.....
Cattle	209,295	149,043	+ 40
Calves	44,053	19,753	.....
Hogs	23,917	16,957	+ 41
Sheep and lambs	19,069	17,917	+ 6
Poultry	33,680	6,859	.....
Eggs	58,156	22,088	.....
Rice	7,863	8,807	— 11
Milk and milk products	121,803	66,233	+ 84
Fruit and vegetables	27,775	34,241	— 19
Peanuts	4,384	4,572	— 4
Flaxseed	211	3,856	— 95

*Farm cash income as computed by the Bureau understates actual farm cash income by from 6 to 10%. This situation results from the fact that means of securing complete local marketings, especially by truck, have not yet been fully developed. In addition, means have not yet been developed for computing cash income from all agricultural specialties of local importance in scattered areas. This situation does not impair the accuracy of the indexes.

The July index of prices received by farmers on all farm products decreased 8% from last month, the United States Department of Agriculture reported. Sharper decreases were recorded for cotton, cottonseed, beef cattle, sheep, lambs, wool, and truck crops. Potatoes and sweet potatoes bucked the downward turn with an increase of 10%. Other increases of less significance were reported for dairy products, poultry, and eggs.

Beef cattle sold at $25.50 per hundredweight and calves at $29.00, $1.50 and $3.00 decreases, respectively. Hogs increased 50 cents in price to an average of $20.90 per hundredweight.

Wool prices dropped for the fourth consecutive month; they were down 23 cents from June to an average of 81 cents per pound during July. Sheep and lamb prices dropped $1.90 and $2.10 per hundredweight to averages of $16.20 and $27.30, respectively.

On the national scene, Department of Agriculture officials believe that the classic economic law of supply and demand will force a further rollback in the price of beef this fall. This prediction is based largely on the fact that there are more cattle available for slaughter than a year ago. In addition, marketings in the past have always increased in late summer and early fall as a result of the termination of the pasture grazing season.

Congress prohibited the Office of Price Stabilization from carrying out the two price rollbacks scheduled for August 1 and October 1. Each was designed to cut prices 4%.

The declining market prices on farm products have carried several commodities below levels at which the government is committed to support them, and recent developments over the country indicate that several others may drop below support levels by harvest time. Farm commodity prices which may have to be supported before the summer is over include those of wheat, cotton, oats, barley, and peanuts. The irony of the situation is that soon the government may be supporting prices, whereas a short time ago they instigated controls to curb them.

INDEXES OF PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS IN TEXAS

(1909–14 = 100)

Source: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Indexes (unadjusted)	July 1951	June 1951	July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
ALL FARM PRODUCTS	351	380	303	+ 16	— 8
All crops	298	326	257	+ 16	— 9
Food grain	250	252	219	+ 14	— 1
Feed grains and hay	201	208	159	+ 26	— 3
Potatoes and sweet potatoes	189	172	170	+ 11	+ 10
Fruit	47	47	179	— 74	0
Truck crops	337	416	314	+ 7	— 19
Cotton	317	339	271	+ 17	— 6
Oil-bearing crops	358	429	249	+ 44	— 17
Livestock and products	421	450	364	+ 16	— 6
Meat animals	526	559	467	+ 13	— 6
Dairy products	261	259	224	+ 17	+ 1
Poultry and eggs	249	241	194	+ 28	+ 3
Wool	503	646	404	+ 25	— 22

Marketings of cattle have increased sharply in the past few months, substantiating the predictions made by Department of Agriculture officials earlier in the summer. Movements of cattle to market in July increased 51% over June 1951 and 38% over July a year ago. The largest increase in marketings of livestock this month was recorded for calves, up 129% from June and 75% from July 1950. Marketings of hogs in July fell 5% from June but increased 17% over July 1950. The only substantial decrease in livestock was recorded for sheep, off 22% from June with no significant change from July 1950. These increases result in part from effects of the drought on pastures.

The 1951 wheat crop has been revised upward to 17,325,000 bushels, an increase of 6% over the July 1

SHIPMENTS OF LIVESTOCK
(in carloads)*

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Classification	July 1951	June 1951	July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
TOTAL SHIPMENTS	5,949	4,027	4,251	+ 40	+ 48
Cattle	3,617	2,491	2,485	+ 46	+ 45
Calves	1,076	441	580	+ 86	----
Hogs	606	659	513	+ 18	— 8
Sheep	650	436	673	— 3	+ 49
INTERSTATE PLUS FORT WORTH	5,702	3,763	3,962	+ 44	+ 52
Cattle	3,483	2,314	2,334	+ 49	+ 51
Calves	1,004	405	501	----	----
Hogs	582	635	512	+ 14	— 8
Sheep	633	409	615	+ 3	+ 55
INTRASTATE MINUS FORT WORTH†	247	264	289	— 15	— 6
Cattle	134	177	151	— 11	— 24
Calves	72	36	79	+ 9	----
Hogs	24	24	1	----	0
Sheep	17	27	58	— 71	— 37

*Rail-car basis: cattle, 30 head per car; calves, 60; hogs, 80; and sheep, 250.

†Intrastate truck shipments are not included. Fort Worth shipments are combined with interstate forwardings in order that the bulk of market disappearance for the month may be shown.

estimate, compared with 22,712,000 bushels last year. The yield per acre was also revised upward, by one-half bushel over July, to 9 bushels.

Corn production was seriously impaired as the July drought inflicted great damage to late-planted acreage. The new crop estimate of 44,612,000 bushels represents a decrease from the July 1 estimate of 6 million bushels, compared to a total production in 1950 of 65,730,000 bushels.

The preliminary forecast of grain sorghum is 85,068,000 bushels for the 1951 season. This compares favorably with the 1940–49 average of 69,694,000 bushels but represents a decrease of 43% from last year.

The first forecast of the 1951 peanut crop is 233 million bushels, 90 million bushels below last year, but only 71 million below the 1940–49 average. Except for the continued drought in the eastern and south central counties, the crop was in fair condition on August 1.

Production of hay has also been impeded by the drought. The estimate of 1,092,000 tons on August 1 shows a downward revision of 9% from the July 1 estimate, and production will likely be below the 10-year average of $1,437,000 tons. Total production of oats this season is estimated by the Department of Agriculture at 7,756,000 bushels.

Egg production during July, estimated at 215 million, is off by 9% from July 1950 and by 19% from June 1951. Production for the first seven months of 1951 totaled 1,912 million compared to 2,010 million for the corresponding period last year. Milk production during July was estimated at 369 million pounds, a decrease of 5% from June 1951, and a 4% decrease from July a year ago.

Marketings of commercial truck crops for the first seven months of 1951 show a 40% decrease from the comparable period last year. However, conditions in

RAIL SHIPMENTS OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLES
(in carloads)

Source: Compiled from reports of Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture

Item	January-July 1951	January-July 1950	Percent change
TOTAL	24,594	41,114	— 40
Fruit			
Cantaloupes	99	306	— 68
Grapefruit*	1,939	3,100	— 37
Oranges*	0	1,307	----
Peaches	13	0	----
Prunes and plums	31	3	----
Watermelons	4,100	7,147	— 43
Mixed citrus*	231	357	— 35
Vegetables			
Beets	86	283	— 70
Broccoli	3	46	— 93
Cabbage	462	2,857	— 84
Carrots	2,974	5,755	— 48
Cauliflower	57	76	— 25
Corn	425	975	— 56
Cucumbers	46	53	— 13
Lettuce	788	1,528	— 48
Onion	3,240	5,300	— 39
Parsley	48	171	— 72
Peppers	5	46	— 89
Potatoes	1,191	1,154	+ 3
Spinach	555	867	— 36
Tomatoes	5,406	7,147	— 24
Mixed Vegetables	2,209	7,209	— 69
All other	686	84	----

*Figures include both truck and rail shipments.

July were favorable for active harvest of the remaining crops and the preparation of seed beds for the fall season.

The table below shows estimated percentages of crops shipped by truck and mixed rail cars. The United States Department of Agriculture estimates individual crop production total by harvest months and reports on total rail shipments of fruits and vegetables in Texas for the year. The Bureau has expressed the total solid rail-car shipments for the harvesting season as a percent of the total estimated crop. The crop percentage minus rail shipments represents that portion of the crop shipped by truck and by mixed rail cars.

ESTIMATED PERCENTAGE OF CROP SHIPPED BY TRUCK AND MIXED RAIL CARS FOR MISCELLANEOUS FRUIT AND VEGETABLES
1945–1950 Average

Source: Bureau of Business Research in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture

Crop and season	Percent	Crop and season	Percent
Beans, snap		Eggplant	86.2
Early spring*	98.7	Peas, green	87.9
Late fall†	79.3	Peppers	38.7
Beets	80.6	Potatoes	
Cabbage	56.1	Winter	82.6
Cantaloupes	74.2	Early spring	28.9
Carrots	51.5	Late spring	73.0
Cauliflower	77.9	Summer	54.2
Corn, green	50.0	Spinach	42.3
Cucumbers	46.1	Sweet potatoes	95.9
Lettuce		Tomatoes	
Winter	49.4	Early spring	25.5
Onions		Late spring	19.9
Early spring	18.9	Late fall	23.0
Late spring	39.0	Watermelons	41.1

*1942–1947 average.
†1942–1948 average.

LABOR

The Texas civilian labor force increased again in July in all but three of the 17 selected markets. These three were Corpus Christi, Galveston-Texas City, and Lubbock. Figures from the Texas Employment Commission show that unemployment is down in 15 of these areas, with Waco and Galveston-Texas City showing the only increases. National employment in commerce, industry, and government dropped 200,000 from June to July, but nonetheless was at a record high for the season.

ESTIMATES OF EMPLOYMENT IN SELECTED INDUSTRIES IN TEXAS
(in thousands)

Source: Texas Employment Commission in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Industry	July 1951*	June 1951	July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
TOTAL NONAGRICULTURAL	2,030.6	2,018.7	1,884.7	+ 8	+ 1
MANUFACTURING	394.3	391.1	345.4	+ 14	+ 1
Durable goods	180.4	176.5	146.4	+ 23	+ 2
Nondurable	213.9	214.6	199.0	+ 7	x
NONMANUFACTURING	1,636.3	1,627.6	1,539.3	+ 6	+ 1
Mining	116.9	115.1	106.7	+ 10	+ 2
Transportation utilities	217.1	217.3	216.2	x	x
Trade	518.5	516.7	503.8	+ 3	x
Wholesale trade	134.3	133.7	126.9	+ 6	x
Retail trade	384.2	383.0	376.9	+ 2	x
Finance, Insurance and Real Estate	78.9	78.0	74.2	+ 6	+ 1
Service	240.1	240.7	240.3	x	x
Government	295.1	295.8	261.4	+ 13	x
Construction	169.7	164.0	136.7	+ 24	+ 3

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.
*Preliminary.

One of the most striking changes in employment in the year since the Korean outbreak has been the increase of 541,000 in the number of government jobs. This increase has brought total government employment to nearly 6.4 million. Of this number, almost 80% was in the federal government, as state and local increases accounted for only 121,000 jobs. Supervisory, clerical, and other non-production jobs in factories have added 60,000 to the employment figure so far this year. Yet, there has been no substantial rise in the number of production workers.

The Department of Labor recently designated Dallas as an area of balanced labor supply. This means that Dallas is among 62 cities where neither a shortage nor a surplus of labor exists, considering present and anticipated needs. San Antonio ranked first in Texas in employment gains with 2,000 new workers, and Fort Worth followed as a close second with 1,400 added workers.

More than 14 million jobs on the nation's farms and in manufacturing and other nonagricultural fields were filled during the fiscal year ending July 30. Thirty-seven percent was gained in nonagricultural fields. The employment of women increased 22%.

Industrial production was disrupted by several labor disputes during July. A wildcat strike halted work in a small-parts plant of the Ford Motor Company. The Chrysler Corporation also suffered a brief work stoppage when 22,500 employees of the Dodge Division's main plant walked out, charging management with an illegal "speed up," which was denied by the company. Automobile workers also struck against the Caterpillar Tractor Company; production of farm and military earth-moving equipment was held up while 12,000 men sought a 28-cent wage boost.

Houston waterfront workers tied up operations by refusing to cross picket lines of the Marine Guard Association, which is demanding recognition as bargaining agent in a fight for increased wages. The president of the Gulf Atlantic Warehouse Company explained that his firm refuses recognition because the marine union has not met all requirements of the National Labor Relations Board.

The CIO Communication Workers Union won a 10% hourly wage increase for 150,000 Bell Telephone workers who had already received a 2% increase in June. The case was arbitrated by the Wage Stabilization Board.

Construction in Texas was impeded by the strike of union bricklayers in 17 counties. The strike, resulting from a demand for a 25-cent hike in wages, will be considered by the Stabilization Board. Meanwhile, a continuance of the strike may stop $1 million of construction in the Houston area.

Union-shop clauses in some 4,000 AF of L and CIO union contracts were ruled as illegal by the National Labor Relations Board. Based on provisions of the Taft-Hartley law, the NLRB ruling requires consent of employees before the board may grant union bargaining rights or before a union can obtain a union shop agreement from management.

HOURS AND EARNINGS IN TEXAS*

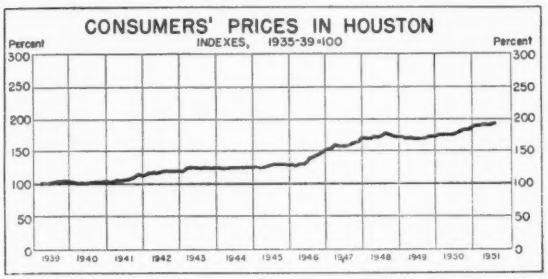
Source: Texas Employment Commission in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Industry	Average weekly earnings: July 1951†	June 1951	July 1950	Average weekly hours: July 1951†	June 1951	July 1950	Average hourly earnings: July 1951†	June 1951	July 1950
MANUFACTURING, TOTAL	$ 63.60	$ 61.84	$ 57.35	42.4	41.5	42.8	$ 1.50	$ 1.49	$ 1.34
Durable goods, total	62.93	61.49	56.96	43.7	43.0	44.5	1.44	1.43	1.28
Nondurable goods, total	64.53	61.75	57.96	41.1	40.1	41.4	1.57	1.54	1.40
NONMANUFACTURING									
Mining	86.98	83.10	74.21	45.3	44.2	43.4	1.92	1.88	1.71
Public utilities	57.95	57.54	52.26	41.1	41.1	40.2	1.41	1.40	1.30
Retail trade	45.80	45.08	42.78	44.9	44.2	44.1	1.02	1.02	0.97
Wholesale trade	62.20	61.63	61.18	43.8	43.4	43.7	1.42	1.42	1.40

*Figures do not cover proprietors, firm members or other principal executives. All series were revised January 1949 and are not strictly comparable with previously published data.
†Preliminary—subject to revision upon receipt of additional reports.

PRICES

The Index of Wholesale Prices in the United States, computed weekly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, Department of Labor, continued to decline during July, reaching a low of 177.6 for all commodities on August 4. This level is less than one point higher than that of January 6 this year and is 6.3 points below the peak reached late in March. The index has moved downward every week since the beginning of June, although some of the component series, notably wholesale food prices, have registered minor upward movements since June.



The latest issue of the Consumers' Price Index, also computed by the BLS, indicates that retail prices throughout the nation increased slightly—from 185.2 to 185.5—between June and July. A similar increase—from 192.3 to 192.6—was registered in Houston during the same monthly interval. The past year of violent price fluctuation has focused widespread attention on this Consumers' Price Index, for the level of retail prices, which this series is designed to measure, is a matter of increasing concern to every citizen.

This index dates from World War I, when it was contrived for use in adjusting wage rates in war industries, particularly shipyards. Immediately after the war, the index was revised to compensate for the changing buying habits of the people. Again, in 1935, the formula for the index was re-examined and altered. During the stable pre-World-War-II years from 1935 through 1939, the index never fell below 97 or rose above 104. This unusually steady five-year period was used as the base for a third revision of the index, made in 1940. In spite of its highly controversial nature, the index survived World War II with only a change of title. Formerly known as the Cost-of-Living Index, the series name was changed to Consumers' Price Index, for it was the intention of the Bureau of Labor Statistics only to chart the price trends of specific items and not to take into consideration the generally rising standard of living during the war years. At the same time, the BLS took pains to make it clear that the index is a measure of the cost of basic items consumed by the average lower-middle-income family in the average large city. Houston is the only Texas city among the 34 that are sampled monthly.

In 1946, when price controls were shelved, the level of prices, as measured by the index, soared, reaching a pinnacle in the late summer of 1948. During the following months prices declined somewhat and reached what seemingly promised to be a long-term plateau. The BLS, intending to take advantage of this stable period, scheduled a thorough revision of the index, and Congress sanctioned the plan. The three-year program of revision is now two-thirds complete, and an entirely revised index should be in use before the end of 1952. Meanwhile, the outbreak of war in Korea upset the price structure of the nation to the extent that the Bureau of Labor Statistics was compelled to improvise an interim price index, the "Adjusted Index," which is now published monthly in the *Review*. The purpose of this recent revision was to furnish a basis for the Administration's economic control program. That the index cannot be entirely adequate to this task is implicit in the fact that many union contracts are still tied, by "escalator clauses," to the old index.

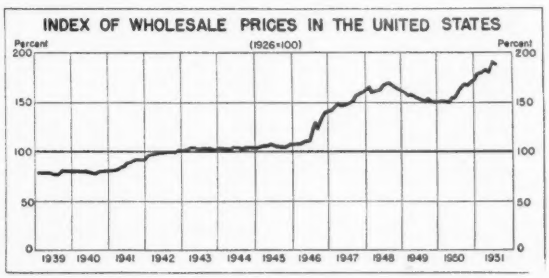
INDEXES OF CONSUMERS' PRICES
(1935–39 = 100)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Group	July 1951	June 1951	May 1951	July 1950	June 1950
UNITED STATES, ALL ITEMS	185.5	185.2	185.4	172.5	170.2
HOUSTON, ALL ITEMS	192.6	192.3	192.0	177.5	175.8
Food	235.2	235.2	235.2	212.8	208.1
Clothing	221.5	222.4	221.8	195.2	194.8
Rent	†	†	168.4	165.0	163.5
Fuel group	98.6	98.6	98.6	98.6	98.6
Housefurnishings	205.5	205.9	206.3	184.0	183.3
Miscellaneous	169.1	168.1	167.3	158.4	157.9

*Preliminary.
†Not surveyed.

Four significant changes were made in this latest revision of the index. First, the domestic rent component of the index was corrected to reflect the changed situation brought about through the use of rent controls during the war and postwar years. The 10-year accumulated correction caused by the construction of new, higher-rent housing, not previously taken into account, amounted to + 6.8 points on the January 1950 rent index. This, in turn, added 1.3 points to the over-all Consumers' Price Index for that month.



Second, two dozen commodities—from cola drinks and frozen foods to television sets—were added to the index formula. No commodities were dropped from the list, which already included about 200 items.

The third change was a revision of group and item weights. Food prices, for example, were known to account for a smaller part of consumer spending than the 42% weight given them in the old index. On the other hand, such miscellaneous living costs as medical care,

personal care, and transportation demanded more of the family budget than previously reckoned; the weight for this latter group was boosted from 23 to 32%.

Fourth in the major changes in the index was the replacement of 1942 population figures for the key cities price-sampled by the BLS with 1950 population data. All of the 34 reporting cities grew during this period.

At present, the BLS continues to issue price indexes computed by both the old and revised formulas. This duplication is required because many union contracts contain provisions basing wages on the old series. General Motors Corporation pioneered in this type of arrangement in a contract signed in May 1948. Since then, according to the BLS, more than 200 other firms have consummated similar agreements. Some of these price-escalated contracts specify that company wages shall be tied to the most recent revision of the price index; some allow for negotiations leading to such a change. Yet, other contracts are based on the old index and must continue to be bound to it until they expire. Because the usual term of such contracts is one year, the BLS intends to continue issuing the old index for at least one year after initial release of the forthcoming revision in order to protect certain wage agreements now in effect.

INDEXES OF WHOLESALE PRICES IN THE UNITED STATES
(1926 = 100)

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, U. S. Department of Labor

Group	July 31 1951	July 3 1951	Aug 1 1950	Percent change: July 31 1951 from Aug 1 1950	Percent change: July 31 1951 from July 3 1951
ALL COMMODITIES	177.9	180.2	165.8	+ 7	— 1
Farm products	189.9	197.6	179.3	+ 6	— 4
Grains	177.2	176.5	169.5	+ 5	x
Livestock	264.0	265.0	246.4	+ 7	x
Foods	186.0	187.2	174.7	+ 6	— 1
Meats	275.3	275.6	257.9	+ 7	x
All commodities other than farm and foods	167.4	168.5	154.3	+ 8	— 1
Textiles	175.7	177.4	148.8	+ 18	— 1
Fuel and lighting	137.7	138.6	134.1	+ 3	— 1
Metals and metal products	188.2	188.2	173.5	+ 8	0
Building materials	224.2	224.4	211.2	+ 6	x
Chemicals and allied products	139.8	137.7	121.7	+ 15	+ 2

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

There has been complaint that the old series is now slightly higher than the adjusted series, and that some wages are therefore disproportionately inflated. The BLS points out that this temporary advantage might reverse itself, for the old series is less stable than the new, and it is possible that from time to time the old index will dip below the level of the new series.

Meanwhile, the long-range hope of the BLS is that the complete revision of the Consumers' Price Index, due in 1952, will be more accurate, more responsive, and more stable than any series now computed, and that it will come into universal use as soon as possible after its completion.

FINANCE

At the present time, Federal Reserve authorities are attempting to curtail inflationary pressures resulting from high monetary incomes and growing military demands on our national product by use of three related but basically different methods. The first device—use of quantitative credit control instruments such as open-market operations and reserve requirements—was discussed in the June issue of the *Review*. The second instrument consits of the selective credit-control devices, such as Regulation W, Regulation X, and margin-control requirements. The third method involves voluntary restraint on the part of lending institutions in granting inflationary loans; this program will be discussed in a later issue of the *Review*.

The selective credit-control devices are of particular interest because they illustrate a trend in central banking-control methods which has been evident during the last 20 years. The first truly selective device—regulation of down payments on the purchase of stocks registered on national security exchanges—was authorized by Congress in the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and was probably a direct result of the stock market crash of 1929 and the ensuing depression. Although most purchasers of such stocks are allowed at present to borrow only 25% of the purchase price, the device does not appear to be particularly important as an instrument in restraining current inflationary pressures.

The same cannot be said of the other two selective devices, however. Regulation W (affecting consumer installment credit) and Regulation X (affecting real estate credit) have been quite important in the fight against the inflationary forces arising since the outbreak

CHANGES IN CONDITION OF WEEKLY REPORTING MEMBER BANKS IN THE DALLAS DISTRICT

Source: Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System

Item	Percent change*: July 1951 from July 1950	July 1951 from June 1951	July 1950 from June 1950
ASSETS			
Loans and investments	+ 2	+ 1	+ 2
Loans	+ 15	— 1	+ 3
Total U.S. Government securities	— 13	+ 3	+ 1
Treasury bills	+ 22	+ 22	— 6
Treasury certificates of indebtedness	— 16	+ 24	— 19
Treasury notes	— 20	— 8	+ 15
United States bonds	— 15	x	+ 2
Other securities	+ 18	0	+ 3
Reserve with Federal Reserve banks	+ 7	— 7	+ 3
Cash in vaults	+ 12	0	— 13
Balances with domestic banks	+ 18	+ 4	— 9
LIABILITIES			
Total deposits (except interbank)	+ 5	x	x
Demand deposits (adjusted)	+ 5	+ 3	+ 1
Time deposits	x	— 1	— 4
U.S. Government deposits	+ 20	— 38	— 9
Interbank deposits	— 1	— 3	+ 5
Domestic banks	— 1	— 3	+ 5
Foreign banks	— 22	0	+ 13
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	+ 12	+ 1	x

*Percentage comparisons are based on week ending nearest the close of the calendar month.

xChange is less than one-half of one percent.

of the Korean conflict. Regulation W was first introduced as a temporary measure in 1941 and expired in the fall of 1947. Inflationary pressures in the summer and fall of 1948 resulted in the establishment of a modified Regulation W, but this second version expired in June 1949. Finally, in September 1950, control of consumer installment credit was again authorized by Congress, and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System utilized its authority by establishing minimum down payments and maximum maturity periods for a variety of durable consumer goods, the most important of which was automobiles. Under the new economic control law signed by the President on July 31, certain down payments were reduced and maturity periods lengthened, thus curtailing the board's authority in administering the regulation.

The theory underlying the use of Regulation W as an anti-inflationary device is based on the contention that expansion of consumer loans, particularly through commercial bank lending, is inflationary in the short run, and that restriction of this activity will not only tend to curtail consumer spending and therefore relieve upward pressure on prices but will also curtail purchases of those goods which are particularly scarce during periods of expanding military production. This reasoning is reinforced by the trend of events in consumer credit during the last two years. For example, Federal Reserve System data show that in the eight-month period from October 1950 to May 1951 installment credit outstanding declined by over $400 million, whereas, in the corresponding period a year earlier, there was an expansion of $1.8 billion.

Regulation X, the newest selective credit control device, was set up in October under the authority granted in the Defense Production Act passed in the summer of 1950. As it exists today, this regulation restricts credit extended through noninsured mortgages on certain residential and nonresidential construction, as well as new multi-unit residences. It is interesting to note that, according to Federal Reserve System reports, private housing starts in the months of April, May, and June of this year were more than one-third below the all-time highs established in the same months of 1950. However, it is impossible to say how much of this restriction resulted from Regulation X on the one hand and, on the other, how much resulted from the tighter mortgage market, a consequence, primarily, of the shift in the government-security market policy of the Federal Reserve authorities.

Effective as these selective devices appear to be, certain important questions regarding their suitability as central bank credit control devices should be raised. The main difference between selective devices and quantitative, or general, devices as anti-inflationary instruments lies in the discriminatory aspects of the selective devices. Where general devices work primarily through commercial bank reserves and tend to restrict the total volume of credit outstanding, selective devices concentrate on specific segments of the economy and force particular economic groups to suffer the results of credit restriction. For example, an increase in member bank reserve requirements reduces the potential credit for all bank borrowers, while a stiffening of the terms of Regulation W tends to reduce the sales of merchants dealing in consumer durables. Furthermore, individual types of goods covered by Regulation W can be affected separately; it is possible to tighten up on automobile credit while easing the terms on household appliances. Thus, it is clear that administration of the selective devices involves a large degree of control over particular economic groups within our society on the part of the administering authority. Whether this situation is desirable or not depends on the extent of governmental direction of economic affairs which one might advocate during an emergency such as that now existing. It should be pointed out, however, that the effectiveness of these selective devices results primarily from the fact that they can be used to restrict certain areas of the economy without affecting other areas to any great extent.

The main conclusion to be drawn from the use of these selective devices of credit control is that such instruments can be important adjuncts to fiscal policy and general central banking policy in curtailing inflationary pressures. However, the fact that such devices do involve a large measure of discriminatory power on the part of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System should not be overlooked. This latter point should be weighed carefully in judging the suitability of the instruments for achieving the desired ends.

The slowing in the rate of business activity in the Southwest affected the loans of the weekly reporting member banks in the Eleventh Federal Reserve District, which on August 1 were 9% below the level held four weeks earlier. Demand deposits were 3% higher on August 1 than on July 3, but the rate of turnover of deposits declined 6% between June and July. The rise in the demand for credit over the past year was shown in the increase of 15% in loans. Over this same period demand deposits rose 5%, but the rate of turnover of deposits declined 1%.

Tax receipts of the State Comptroller of Public Accounts for the first 11 months of the fiscal year were 12% above the first 11 months of last year. This

FEDERAL INTERNAL REVENUE COLLECTIONS*
Source: Office of the Collector, Internal Revenue Service, Treasury Department

District	July 1-July 31 1951	July 1-July 31 1950	Percent change
TEXAS	$85,687,492	$75,049,319	+ 14
Income	25,107,492	31,776,208	— 21
Employment	500,313	2,307,332	— 78
Withholding	48,173,965	29,321,595	+ 64
Other	11,905,722	11,644,184	+ 2
FIRST DISTRICT	46,161,595	34,258,681	+ 35
Income	11,374,211	9,325,929	+ 22
Employment	83,752	68,393	+ 22
Withholding	28,700,534	19,781,469	+ 45
Other	6,003,098	5,082,890	+ 18
SECOND DISTRICT	39,525,897	40,790,638	— 3
Income	13,733,281	22,450,279	— 39
Employment	416,561	2,238,939	— 81
Withholding	19,473,431	9,540,126	----
Other	5,902,624	6,561,294	— 10

*Withholding receipts for 1951 include Federal Insurance Contributions which were formerly included in employment tax collections.

gain was brought about by the general rise in business activity and particularly by the increased production of oil and gas.

Crude oil production taxes rose 38% over last year, while production rose 28%. Taxes from production of natural gas, both from gas wells and oil wells, rose 37%, and marketed production of gas rose 22%. Oil and gas royalties increased only 18%, but mineral leases, rentals, and bonuses were up 178%.

Taxes reflecting the rise in general business rose less than those levied on gas and oil, since the total of all business activity has increased considerably less than the production of gas and oil. The composite index of business activity in Texas for the 11 months ending July 30, 1951, was 6% above the previous 11 months and it was this rise in general business that brought about the increase in the receipts of taxes levied on business activity.

Federal Internal Revenue collections in Texas for July, the first month of the federal fiscal year, increased 14% over July 1950. For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1951, federal tax collections in Texas were 31% above the preceding fiscal year, while total collection for the United States was 32% greater than in fiscal year 1950.

REVENUE RECEIPTS OF STATE COMPTROLLER
Source: State Comptroller of Public Accounts

Item	July 1951	September 1–July 31 1950–51	1949–50	Percent change
TOTAL	$47,055,279	$570,281,721	$511,188,363	+ 12
Ad valorem taxes	173,656	33,753,627	30,405,292	+ 11
Natural and casinghead gas production taxes	1,207,369	12,854,751	9,395,199	+ 37
Crude oil production taxes	9,606,995	102,104,580	73,933,133	+ 38
Sulphur production taxes	1,206,928	5,449,609	4,756,864	+ 15
Insurance companies and other occupation taxes	11,501	13,307,760	11,756,480	+ 13
Motor fuel taxes (net)	8,799,568	87,584,250	79,516,195	+ 10
Cigarette tax and licenses	3,103,451	30,467,342	26,546,599	+ 15
Alcoholic beverage taxes and licenses	1,244,752	15,539,183	14,733,852	+ 5
Automobile and other sales taxes	1,475,446	15,685,815	13,374,062	+ 17
Franchise taxes	101,236	9,797,689	8,013,176	+ 22
Mineral leases, rentals and bonuses	138,966	13,483,227	4,857,041	----
Oil and gas royalties	1,175,291	15,032,100	12,709,522	+ 18
Interest on deposits	12,911	143,454	3,620,849	— 96
Interest on securities owned	390,418	9,921,870	8,801,037	+ 13
Unclassified receipts from county tax collectors	39,695	22,559–	702,176–	----
Motor vehicle licenses and permits	1,020,773	32,182,431	27,725,956	+ 16
Federal aid—highways	964,101	10,814,351	26,623,416	— 59
Federal aid—public welfare	7,676,141	70,508,218	69,394,862	+ 2
Federal aid—public education	3,365,343	17,645,641	19,644,383	— 10
Retirement contributions	940,394	12,526,168	11,431,426	+ 10
Unemployment compensation taxes	1,408,659	16,097,222	17,691,009	— 9
All other receipts	2,991,686	45,404,992	36,980,186	+ 23

Availability of Detailed Foreign Trade Statistics

By WILLIAM N. BRESWICK, *Lecturer in Foreign Trade (see front cover)*

From time to time, the Bureau of Business Research receives requests for information on foreign trade statistics concerning:

(a) Foreign trade through some particular region of the United States—one or more states, a portion of a state, or just a city;[1] *(b)* the commodity composition of this trade; or *(c)* the countries of destination or origin of the foreign trade of the region.

This article is intended to provide sufficient basic information for the solution of particular problems. Basic answers will be offered to questions on each phase of the subject.

1. *What kinds of regional trade statistics are available?*

Statistics of the foreign trade of the United States are broken down, geographically, by customs districts, not states. The nation and its territories comprise some fifty customs districts, some of which include more than one state, some less. Each district contains a designated "headquarters port" and several other "ports of entry" where exports and imports are recorded and cleared. Study of a customs district map[2] or of *Schedule D, Code Classification of Customs Districts by Ports of Entry*[3] will show whether it is possible to obtain desired regional data. For example, to secure measures of foreign trade through Texas the appropriate statistics are those for Customs Districts 21 through 24. All Texas foreign trade is included in these statistics; but although Texas wholly contains Districts 22 and 23, District 21 runs over into Louisiana, and District 24 also includes most of New Mexico. Since El Paso, the headquarters port, commercially dominates District 24, this district can reasonably be considered as part of Texas. Similar situations concerning other states or regions might be resolved in the same manner. If regional classification is the main objective, *i.e.*, if specific commodity or country-of-destination-or-origin breakdown is not desired, regularly published reports on such trade statistics are available. *Report FT 970, U. S. Foreign Trade by Customs District*[4] includes statistics of total exports and imports for all forms of transportation. *Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce of the United States*, published with quarterly cumulative supplements by the Bureau of the Census, delineates trade of customs districts and of selected ports.

[1]This article is concerned only with the statistics of trade moving *through* a given area. It makes no attempt to deal with the distinction between trade moving *through* as against goods produced *within* the area. For further information on the latter point see P. M. Hauser and W. R. Leonard, *Government Statistics for Business Use* (New York: John Wiley and Sons, 1946).

[2]Available from the Bureau of Customs, U. S. Treasury Department, Washington 25, D. C.

[3]Available from the Bureau of Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, Washington 25, D. C.

[4]Bureau of the Census (monthly).

2. *What kinds of commodity-classified statistics for customs districts are available?*

Commodity-classified statistics for the entire United States are available in regular publications.[5] Yet, there are no regularly published reports of commodity-by-region breakdowns. It should be appreciated that publication of statistics of such a highly detailed arrangement would be an enormous task. Where statistics are needed, the government makes available several means of obtaining them. These means are best understood if one is aware of the following fundamentals:

a) Statistics on import shipments are derived from the Customs Declaration, which must, by law, be filed for each commercial import shipment. All pertinent data are included: description of the goods, codified commodity classification, value, volume or weight, country and port of origin, port of entry, and so forth. It is to be noted that all variables are included. The information given on these forms is transferred to IBM cards, one card for each shipment, using the necessary number codes that IBM systems involve.

b) IBM cards are also made for export shipments from information given on the Shipper's Export Declaration, legally required.

c) Each customs district, then, is in possession of all the data necessary for various statistical delineations. Yet, only total exports and imports by customs districts are regularly published.

d) The punched IBM cards are run through a tabulating machine, which prints an original and several carbons of the information on a continuous machine tabulation sheet. Totals and subtotals are automatically recorded, and by means of a mechanical sorting machine, the cards can be automatically arranged in the proper sequence to show any desired data on the variable factors involved. Thus, the sorting can be performed so as to result in a tabulation sheet listing the shipments by country of origin, then by commodity, with totals and subtotals. Other sorting sequences would result in other statistical alignments.

e) The actual tabulation sheets prepared by the government are known as *Unpublished Machine Tabulation Sheet EM—563, U. S. Exports of Domestic and Foreign Merchandise, U. S. Customs Districts by Country of Destination by Commodity (Schedule B Classification)*, and *Unpublished Machine Tabulation Sheet IM—154, U. S. Imports for Immediate Consumption, U. S. Customs District of Entry by Commodity (Schedule A Classification) by Unit Control by Rate Provision (Rate of Duty Code) by Country of Origin.* In *EM—563*, the primary breakdown is by customs district, the secondary breakdown by country of destination, the tertiary breakdown is the commodity total of a country, and the quaternary breakdown is the individual, itemized shipment. It is to be noted from its title that *IM—154* gives a different sequence: The primary breakdown is the customs district, the secondary breakdown is the commodity, the tertiary breakdown is the country, and the quaternary breakdown is, of course, the individual shipment. (This ignores the "Unit Control" and "Rate Provision" breakdown, present in the title of the report.)

f) The Bureau of the Census will make copies of these tabulation sheets available to properly interested parties.[6] With these sheets on hand, any desired subtotals can be obtained. "When the above-described reports do not meet the needs of Port Authorities or other users of statistics, because of the form in which the data are presented or the time at which they are made available to the public, special reports designed to meet the individual needs are prepared on a cost basis. Thus, if a user of shipping statistics wished to receive a decoded report covering a portion of a report . . . it can be prepared on a cost basis."[7] This excerpt suggests the possibility of deriving sequences of breakdowns different from those available on the unpublished machine tabulation sheets *EM—563* and *IM—154*, through the use of the cost-basis service. Alternatively, when special purposes are in mind it is conceivable that the applicant might obtain a duplicate set of IBM cards from the Bureau of the Census and, by appropriate presorting, derive whatever breakdown sequences were desired. The duplicate set of cards might not only cost less than several prepared sheets, but would also permit innumerable variations in the breakdowns obtainable.

3. *What kinds of country-of-origin-or-destination statistics for areas not coinciding with customs districts are available?*

None is regularly published. As suggested by the Texas example, groups of customs districts may be chosen to represent, more or less closely, the required region. What about regional delineations of less than customs-district size—perhaps a city or group of cities? Several suggestions can be offered: Consult appropriate public or quasi-public organizations such as port authorities, Army Engineers, and chambers of commerce, to inquire as to the availability of such figures. It would be expected that their primary source would be the Bureau of the Census, which compiles data through the Collectors of Customs.

[5]Henry H. Schloss and William N. Breswick, *A Selected and Annotated Bibliography of International Trade* ("Bibliography Series" No. 9 [Austin, Texas: Bureau of Business Research, The University of Texas, July 1951]). Available without charge.

[6]Bureau of the Census, U. S. Department of Commerce, *Foreign Trade Statistics Notes*, February 1951. *Also*, Schloss and Breswick, *op. cit.*, Part II, B.

[7]*Ibid.*, p. 12.

The Bureau of Business Research announces a new pamphlet listing all its publications available now or in the near future, including several titles to be released early this fall. Copies of the list may be obtained without charge from the Publications Division, Bureau of Business Research, The University of Texas, Austin 12.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
ABILENE: (pop. 47,102)‡			
Retail sales		− 13	− 3
Department and apparel store sales		− 4	x
Postal receipts	$ 47,976	+ 13	+ 2
Building permits	$ 928,180	− 1	+241
Air express shipments	158	− 21	− 15
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 47,767	x	− 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 52,454	+ 9	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.2	− 6	− 3
Unemployment	750	0	− 6
Placements in employment	683	+ 4	− 8
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	23,200	+ 15	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.2	− 14	− 9
AMARILLO: (pop. 73,737)‡			
Retail sales		− 15	− 5
Automotive stores		− 28	− 11
Department and apparel store sales		− 8	− 3
Food stores		+ 7	− 3
Lumber, building material and hardware stores		− 10	+ 18
Office, store and school supply dealers		+ 28	− 9
Postal receipts	$ 99,160	+ 17	+ 13
Building permits	$ 898,942	− 64	− 29
Air express shipments	357	− 30	− 18
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 114,803	+ 9	− 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 99,157	+ 2	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.0	+ 5	− 5
Unemployment	1,175	− 6	− 6
Placements in employment	1,636	+ 40	− 3
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	43,075	+ 17	+ 5
Percent of labor force unemployed	2.7	− 21	− 10
AUSTIN: (pop. 131,964)‡			
Retail sales		− 27	− 6
Automotive stores		− 38	+ 8
Department and apparel store sales		− 6	− 11
Eating and drinking places		+ 18	+ 1
Filling stations		− 40	− 2
Food stores		+ 18	− 4
Furniture and household stores		− 44	+ 3
Lumber, building material and hardware stores		− 33	− 11
Postal receipts	$ 164,011	+ 8	+ 3
Building permits	$ 1,142,140	− 78	− 3
Air express shipments	390	− 19	+ 19
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 115,566	− 1	− 14
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 108,988	− 4	− 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.7	+ 2	− 13
Unemployment	1,920	+ 34	− 4
Placements in employment	1,430	+ 6	− 10
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	49,520	+ 7	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.9	+ 26	− 3
BRADY: (pop. 5,923)‡			
Postal receipts	$ 3,737	− 13	+ 10
Building permits	$ 48,150	+ 15	+ 57
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 4,801	x	− 23
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 7,725	− 3	− 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.3	+ 3	− 22

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

City and item	July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
BAYTOWN: (pop. 22,927)‡			
Postal receipts	$ 12,791	+ 19	+ 11
Building permits	$ 116,580	− 63	− 46
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 20,510		+ 31
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 17,376		− 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.1		+ 33
Unemployment (area)	8,500	− 37	0
Placements in employment (area)	6,265	+ 29	− 3
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	347,300	+ 3	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	2.4	− 40	− 44
BEAUMONT: (pop. 93,715)‡			
Retail sales		− 17	− 10
Automotive sales		− 22	− 13
Department and apparel store sales		− 4	− 12
Eating and drinking places		+ 1	+ 3
Furniture and household stores		− 27	− 4
General merchandise stores		− 5	− 11
Lumber, building material and hardware stores		− 32	− 2
Postal receipts	$ 59,653	− 1	+ 2
Building permits	$ 358,578	− 58	− 12
Air express shipments	209	− 21	− 3
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 114,302	+ 13	− 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 89,770	− 2	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.4	+ 15	− 4
Unemployment (area)	5,250	− 39	− 7
Placements in employment (area)	2,174	+ 51	+ 36
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	77,050	+ 1	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	6.8	− 40	− 8
BIG SPRING: (pop. 17,258)‡			
Retail sales		− 20	− 9
Department and apparel store sales		− 9	+ 5
Postal receipts	$ 11,995	− 8	− 21
Building permits	$ 94,380	− 91	− 15
Air express shipments	29	− 41	− 22
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 17,071	− 39	− 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 25,127	+ 10	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.2	− 43	− 7
Placements in employment	238	+ 27	+ 31
BROWNSVILLE: (pop. 36,176)‡			
Retail sales		− 25	+ 7
Department and apparel store sales		− 14	− 2
Postal receipts	$ 17,532	+ 3	+ 5
Building permits	$ 115,547	− 75	− 18
Air express shipments	389	− 16	− 1
Placements in employment	367	− 7	− 19
BRYAN: (pop. 18,072)‡			
Department and apparel store sales		− 28	− 37
Postal receipts	$ 11,746	+ 18	+ 16
Building permits	$ 41,590	− 83	− 71
Air express shipments	15	− 6	− 6
Placements in employment	407	+118	+ 8

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item		July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
BROWNWOOD: (pop. 20,140)‡				
Retail sales			— 26	— 23
Department and apparel store sales			— 11	— 2
Postal receipts	$	14,426	+ 16	x
Air express shipments		27	+ 8	+ 17
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$	10,014	— 12	— 15
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$	13,375	— 1	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover		9.0	— 10	— 15
Placements in employment		213	+ 37	+ 12
BRENHAM: (pop. 6,917)‡				
Postal receipts	$	4,961	+ 3	+ 1
Building permits	$	33,576	— 52	— 14
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$	5,392	.....	— 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$	8,933	.....	— 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover		7.1	.....	— 9
Placements in employment		127	.....	— 2
CORPUS CHRISTI: (pop. 108,053)‡				
Retail sales			— 22	— 4
Apparel stores			— 17	— 13
Automotive stores			— 26	— 7
Eating and drinking places			x	+ 2
Food stores			x	+ 9
Furniture and household stores			— 29	+ 5
Lumber, building material and hardware stores			— 23	+ 1
Postal receipts	$	90,169	+ 13	+ 6
Building permits	$	1,456,802	— 38	+110
Air express shipments		355	— 13	+ 1
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$	114,562	+ 5	— 3
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$	92,351	+ 1	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover		15.0	+ 4	— 1
Unemployment		1,900	— 39	— 14
Placements in employment		1,912	+ 16	+ 12
Nonagricultural civilian labor force		57,400	+ 5	x
Percent of labor force unemployed		3.3	— 42	— 13
CORSICANA: (pop. 19,108)‡				
Postal receipts	$	11,927	+ 14	x
Building permits	$	503,161	+357	+2564
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$	12,033	+ 7	— 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$	21,583	+ 7	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover		6.8	+ 1	— 3
Placements in employment		272	+106	+ 34
DEL RIO: (pop. 14,191)‡				
Postal receipts	$	5,496	— 3	— 3
Building permits	$	31,960	+135	+ 33
Air express shipments		23	— 45	— 30
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$	5,957	.....	— 14
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$	10,053	.....	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover		7.1	.....	— 15
DENTON: (pop. 21,345)‡				
Retail sales			— 15	— 14
Postal receipts	$	16,065	— 6	+ 22
Building permits	$	92,500	— 58	+ 27
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$	9,162	.....	— 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$	12,498	.....	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover		8.8	.....	— 10
Placements in employment		38	— 12	— 41

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

City and item		July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
DALLAS: (pop. 432,927)‡				
Retail sales			— 10	— 10
Apparel stores			— 7	— 10
Automotive stores			— 31	— 13
Drug stores			— 5	— 7
Eating and drinking places			+ 27	— 1
Filling stations			— 5	— 1
Florists			+ 17	— 22
Food stores			+ 7	— 10
Furniture and household stores			x	— 30
Lumber, building material and hardware stores			— 9	— 2
Office, store and school supply dealers			x	— 15
Postal receipts	$	1,056,617	+ 9	x
Building permits	$	5,424,692	— 59	— 6
Air express shipments		6,680	+ 1	— 8
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$	1,241,951	— 7	— 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$	920,821	+ 8	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover		16.1	— 13	— 6
Unemployment		5,550	— 16	— 8
Placements in employment		7,077	+ 19	+ 3
Nonagricultural civilian labor force		276,350	+ 6	x
Percent of labor force unemployed		2.0	— 20	— 9
DENISON: (pop. 17,444)‡				
Retail sales			— 22	— 12
Department and apparel store sales			— 24	— 6
Postal receipts	$	10,254	+ 10	— 2
Building permits	$	21,067	— 92	— 46
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$	9,080	+ 16	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$	12,198	+ 4	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover		8.8	+ 9	+ 6
Placements in employment		309	+ 41	— 12
EL PASO: (pop. 130,003)‡				
Retail sales			— 22	— 8
Apparel stores			— 3	— 3
Automotive stores			— 25	— 6
Furniture and household stores			— 41	— 8
Lumber, building material and hardware stores			— 46	— 19
Postal receipts	$	143,848	+ 14	+ 4
Building permits	$	380,522	— 81	— 65
Air express shipments		1,134	— 5	— 3
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$	155,004	+ 6	— 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$	130,437	+ 1	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover		14.3	+ 5	— 5
Unemployment		1,900	— 17	— 5
Placements in employment		1,642	+ 15	— 5
Nonagricultural civilian labor force		63,200	+ 17	x
Percent of labor force unemployed		3.0	— 29	— 6
GONZALES: (pop. 5,630)‡				
Postal receipts	$	3,072	.....	+ 3
Building permits	$	2,125	— 92	— 90
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$	4,318	— 7	— 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$	5,926	— 3	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover		8.9	— 2	— 10

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
FORT WORTH: (pop. 277,047)‡			
Retail sales		− 10	− 2
Apparel stores		− 6	− 3
Automotive stores		− 44	+ 1
Eating and drinking places		+ 33	x
Filling stations		− 14	x
Food stores		+ 5	+ 6
Lumber, building material and hardware stores		+ 6	− 4
Postal receipts	$ 366,089	− 1	x
Building permits	$ 1,859,451	− 53	− 40
Air express shipments	1,644	+ 7	− 13
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 435,428	+ 13	− 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 352,309	+ 9	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	14.9	+ 4	− 5
Unemployment	5,100	− 35	− 7
Placements in employment	6,648	+ 78	+ 2
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	161,600	+ 12	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.2	− 41	− 6
GALVESTON: (pop. 65,898)‡			
Retail sales		− 16	− 5
Automotive stores		− 19	+ 7
Department and apparel store sales		− 2	− 10
Food stores		+ 6	− 5
Furniture and household stores		− 37	− 20
Lumber, building material and hardware stores		− 23	− 16
Postal receipts	$ 54,982	+ 1	− 6
Building permits	$ 104,590	− 67	− 98
Air express shipments	267	− 26	− 8
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 75,044	+ 6	− 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 99,367	+ 3	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.1	+ 2	− 1
Unemployment (area)	1,900	− 34	+ 12
Placements in employment (area)	907	+ 28	+ 15
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	49,500	− 3	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	3.8	− 33	+ 12
GREENVILLE: (pop. 14,697)‡			
Retail sales		− 25	− 14
Department and apparel store sales		− 14	− 8
Postal receipts	$ 14,473	+ 13	+ 16
Building permits	$ 142,000	+270	+515
Placements in employment	260	+ 31	+ 2
LOCKHART: (pop. 5,531)‡			
Department and apparel store sales		− 9	− 19
Postal receipts	$ 2,503	− 3	+ 8
Building permits	$ 11,123	− 97	− 64
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 2,886	− 6	− 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 4,163	− 5	− 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.1	− 2	0
LAMESA: (pop. 10,706)‡			
Postal receipts	$ 6,867	+ 9	+ 1
Building permits	$ 79,400	− 72	− 6
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 8,518	− 25	− 14
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 15,376	+ 3	− 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	6.5	− 28	− 10
Placements in employment	201	+ 31	+ 16

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

City and item	July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
HENDERSON: (pop. 6,802)‡			
Department and apparel store sales		− 21	− 1
Postal receipts	$ 7,262	+ 18	+ 15
Building permits	$ 24,200	− 13	+ 45
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 2,208	− 6	x
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 12,854	x	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	2.1	− 5	+ 5
Placements in employment	2,195	+141	+461
HOUSTON: (pop. 594,321)‡			
Retail sales		− 11	− 6
Apparel stores		− 10	− 3
Automotive stores		− 24	+ 1
Eating and drinking places		+ 7	− 1
Filling stations		− 12	− 7
Food stores		+ 1	− 9
Furniture and household stores		− 26	+ 1
Liquor stores		− 17	− 3
Lumber, building material and hardware stores		− 10	− 13
Postal receipts	$ 678,064	+ 11	− 3
Building permits	$ 9,598,423	− 52	+ 24
Air express shipments	3,881	− 14	− 3
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 1,356,904	+ 12	− 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 1,063,183	+ 5	− 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	15.2	+ 5	− 5
Unemployment (area)	8,500	− 37	0
Placements in employment (area)	6,265	+ 29	− 3
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	347,300	+ 3	x
Precent of labor force unemployed (area)	2.4	− 40	− 4
HARLINGEN: (pop. 23,202)‡			
Postal receipts	$ 18,254	+ 1	+ 5
Building permits	$ 102,210	− 75	+158
Air express shipments	119	− 26	+125
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 37,469	− 35	+ 84
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 24,779	− 20	+ 51
Annual rate of deposit turnover	21.9	− 22	+ 52
Placements in employment	360	+ 27	+ 4
LUFKIN: (pop. 15,147)‡			
Postal receipts	$ 11,481	− 23	+ 33
Building permits	$ 51,200	− 85	− 44
Air express shipments	33	− 27	− 21
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 14,565	+ 10	− 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 18,096	+ 2	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.7	+ 9	− 4
Placements in employment	405	+189	+170
LONGVIEW: (pop. 24,445)‡			
Postal receipts	$ 20,178	+ 10	− 12
Building permits	$ 538,261	− 39	+ 40
Air express shipments	143	+ 17	+ 21
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 28,022	+ 26	− 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 32,542	+ 15	+ 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.5	+ 12	− 3
Unemployment	1,175	− 28	− 6
Placements in employment	606	+ 3	− 3
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	23,675	+ 4	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	5.0	− 31	− 6

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
LAREDO: (pop. 51,694)‡			
Department and apparel store sales		+ 30	— 3
Postal receipts	$ 22,143	+ 26	+ 19
Building permits	$ 27,860	— 52	— 27
Air express shipments	199	— 18	+ 3
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 19,961	+ 17	— 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 21,005	— 8	+ 5
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.8	+ 31	0
Placements in employment	380	+120	+ 14
LUBBOCK: (pop. 71,390)‡			
Retail sales		— 28	— 10
Automotive stores		— 31	— 12
Department and apparel store sales		— 7	+ 1
Furniture and household stores		— 44	+ 5
General merchandise stores		— 9	+ 3
Lumber, building material and hardware stores		— 57	— 37
Postal receipts	$ 56,142	— 16	— 14
Building permits	$ 863,182	— 71	— 19
Air express shipments	230	— 27	— 29
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 79,931	x	— 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 88,320	+ 4	— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.7	— 7	— 1
Unemployment	700	0	— 22
Placements in employments	1,089	+ 7	+ 5
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	30,100	+ 6	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	2.3	— 8	— 23
MARLIN: (pop. 7,006)‡			
Postal receipts	$ 4,539	+ 13	— 1
Building permits	$ 19,785	— 68	— 68
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 3,762	----	+ 17
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 4,019	----	— 16
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.2	----	+ 21
Placements in employment	97	----	— 32
MARSHALL: (pop. 22,255)‡			
Retail sales		— 14	— 9
Department and apparel store sales		— 6	— 12
Postal receipts	$ 15,113	+ 11	+ 9
Building permits	$ 73,153	— 7	— 29
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 12,153	+ 11	+ 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 18,323	— 2	+ 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.0	+ 14	+ 4
Placements in employment	349	+ 15	— 22
McALLEN: (pop. 20,005)‡			
Retail sales		— 31	— 10
Department and apparel store sales		— 18	x
Postal receipts	$ 12,686	+ 11	+ 4
Building permits	$ 19,900	— 87	— 47
Air express shipments	50	+ 39	— 22
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 16,922	x	+ 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 15,924	+ 4	+ 7
Annual rate of deposit turnover	13.2	— 1	+ 6
Placements in employment	295	+ 21	— 57

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

City and item	July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
MIDLAND: (pop. 21,756)‡			
Postal receipts	$ 30,478	+ 17	+ 5
Building permits	$ 812,400	— 31	— 25
Air express shipments	203	— 15	— 33
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 43,189	+ 29	+ 1
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 50,491	+ 28	— 2
Placements in employment	746	+238	+ 22
MINERAL WELLS: (pop. 7,763)‡			
Retail sales		— 12	— 2
Postal receipts	$ 8,595	+ 57	+ 44
Building permits	$ 66,525	+ 50	— 15
Air express shipments	18	— 5	— 25
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 5,177	+ 19	— 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 8,879	+ 14	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.0	+ 8	— 4
Placements in employment	99	+183	— 27
ODESSA: (pop. 29,432)‡			
Retail sales		— 28	— 13
Department and apparel store sales		— 5	— 14
Postal receipts	$ 27,424	+ 28	+ 4
Building permits	$ 671,395	— 67	+ 21
Air express shipments	210	+ 12	+ 8
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 28,353	+ 14	— 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 27,655	+ 14	x
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.3	— 3	— 2
Placements in employment	527	+ 37	— 11
PARIS: (pop. 21,636)‡			
Retail sales		— 25	— 12
Department and apparel store sales		— 10	— 19
Postal receipts	$ 11,961	+ 7	+ 7
Building permits	$ 37,780	— 81	+ 40
Air express shipments	28	— 20	+100
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 11,737	— 14	— 5
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 13,321	— 9	— 6
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.3	— 6	— 2
Placements in employment	507	— 17	— 12
PLAINVIEW: (pop. 14,023)‡			
Retail sales		— 15	+ 11
Department and apparel store sales		— 7	+ 9
Postal receipts	$ 9,668	— 7	+ 4
Building permits	$ 45,400	— 75	— 71
Air express shipments	22	— 51	— 46
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 14,331	+ 4	x
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 16,246	— 4	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	10.7	+ 10	0
Placements in employment	102	+ 15	— 18
RAYMONDVILLE: (pop. 9,135)‡			
Postal receipts	$ 4,984	— 19	+ 24
Building permits	$ 31,850	+ 16	+195
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 7,249	— 57	+ 68
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 9,241	— 53	+ 82
Annual rate of deposit turnover	12.1	— 23	+ 19
Placements in employment	142	— 33	+ 25

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
PORT ARTHUR: (pop. 57,377)‡			
Retail sales		— 17	— 5
Automotive stores		— 30	— 2
Department and apparel store sales		— 1	— 13
Eating and drinking places		+ 3	+ 5
Food stores		+ 14	— 6
Lumber, building material and hardware stores		— 18	— 22
Postal receipts	$ 30,694	+ 21	+ 11
Building permits	$ 204,925	— 37	— 78
Air express shipments	117	+ 18	+ 11
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 39,915	+ 26	— 8
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 44,303	+ 15	+ 14
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.5	+ 19	— 12
Unemployment (area)	5,250	— 39	— 7
Placements in employment (area)	2,174	+ 51	+ 36
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	77,050	+ 1	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	6.8	— 40	— 8
SAN ANTONIO: (pop. 406,811)‡			
Retail sales		— 10	— 4
Apparel stores		x	— 5
Automotive stores		— 29	— 3
Drug stores		+ 8	+ 1
Eating and drinking places		+ 2	— 2
Filling stations		— 1	— 1
Florists		— 18	— 17
Food stores		— 5	— 11
Furniture and household stores		— 20	+ 15
Lumber, building material and hardware stores		— 10	+ 1
Postal receipts	$ 395,153	+ 16	+ 7
Building permits	$ 3,028,987	— 36	+ 29
Air express shipments	2,114	— 10	— 14
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 337,458	+ 4	— 12
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 371,389	+ 5	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.0	+ 1	— 12
Unemployment	5,500	— 31	— 8
Placements in employment	4,287	+ 56	+ 10
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	193,000	+ 20	+ 1
Percent of labor force unemployed	2.8	— 44	— 10
SHERMAN: (pop. 20,073)‡			
Retail sales		— 19	— 20
Department and apparel store sales		+ 6	— 5
Postal receipts	$ 18,023	+ 7	+ 6
Building permits	$ 77,069	— 55	— 30
Placements in employment	246	+ 68	+ 19
TEMPLE: (pop. 24,970)‡			
Retail sales		— 18	— 19
Department and apparel store sales		— 2	— 27
Postal receipts	$ 20,114	+ 18	+ 2
Building permits	$ 197,250	— 40	+ 55
Air express shipments	41	— 7	+ 21
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 17,313	+ 16	+ 5
End-of-month depcsits (thousands)*	$ 20,094	x	— 6
Annual rate of depcsit turnover	10.0	+ 19	+ 4
Placements in employment	420	+ 9	— 1

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

City and item	July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
SAN ANGELO: (pop. 51,889)‡			
Retail sales		— 20	+ 2
Department and apparel store sales		— 5	+ 17
Postal receipts	$ 35,096	+ 12	— 5
Building permits	$ 282,372	— 71	— 39
Air express shipments	223	— 37	— 9
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 35,640	— 8	— 23
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 50,194	+ 4	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.5	— 11	— 21
Unemployment	750	— 32	— 6
Placements in employment	659	+ 8	— 11
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	21,000	+ 3	+ 1
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.6	— 33	— 8
SEGUIN: (pop. 9,696)‡			
Postal receipts	$ 6,651	+ 30	+ 10
Building permits	$ 57,150	— 51	+2758
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 5,649		— 9
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 8,828		— 3
Annual rate of deposit turnover	7.6		— 7
TAYLOR: (pop. 9,083)‡			
Postal receipts	$ 6,446	+ 7	+ 26
Building permits	$ 39,880	— 61	+ 55
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 10,868		— 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 11,918		+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.1		— 6
Placements in employment	112	— 19	+ 15
TEXARKANA: (pop. 24,657)‡			
Retail sales		— 13	— 1
Department and apparel store sales		— 2	— 13
Postal receipts	$ 38,358	+ 6	— 5
Air express shipments	87	— 7	— 18
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 32,297	+ 12	+ 6
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 23,772	+ 6	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.4	0	+ 6
Unemployment	3,300	+ 6	0
Placements in employment	1,170	+ 95	+ 13
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	41,450	+ 20	+ 2
Percent of labor force unemployed	8.0	— 11	— 1
TEXAS CITY: (pop. 16,577)‡			
Retail sales		+ 16	— 7
Department and apparel store sales		+ 46	— 6
Postal receipts	$ 10,736	+ 12	+ 8
Building permits	$ 170,521	— 21	— 3
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 20,384	+ 51	— 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 21,489	+ 71	+ 4
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.6	— 8	— 12
Unemployment (area)	1,900	— 34	+ 12
Placements in employment (area)	907	+ 28	+ 15
Nonagricultural civilian labor force (area)	49,500	— 3	x
Percent of labor force unemployed (area)	3.8	— 33	+ 12

For explanation of symbols, see p. 23.

LOCAL BUSINESS CONDITIONS

City and item	July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
TYLER: (pop. 38,864)‡			
Retail sales		— 30	— 1
Department and apparel store sales		— 20	— 13
Postal receipts	$ 42,628	+ 24	— 16
Building permits	$ 303,615	— 63	+ 3
Air express shipments	152	— 47	— 34
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 48,859	+ 2	— 2
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 50,848	— 1	— 1
Annual rate of deposit turnover	11.4	+ 4	— 2
Placements in employment	677	+ 17	+ 25
WICHITA FALLS: (pop. 67,709)‡			
Retail sales		— 3	— 14
Department and apparel store sales		— 22	— 18
Postal receipts	$ 78,448	+ 42	— 4
Building permits	$ 621,678	— 6	— 21
Air express shipments	220	— 13	+ 15
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 75,346	+ 14	— 4
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 102,858	+ 11	+ 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	8.9	+ 5	— 7
Unemployment	1,000	0	— 3
Placements in employment	966	+ 32	+ 5
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	40,850	+ 22	x
Percent of labor force unemployed	2.4	— 14	— 4

City and item	July 1951	Percent change: July 1951 from July 1950	Percent change: July 1951 from June 1951
VICTORIA: (pop. 16,102)‡			
Department and apparel store sales		— 9	— 20
Postal receipts	$ 13,635	+ 13	+ 3
Air express shipments	39	+ 18	+ 18
Placements in employment	302	+108	+ 21
WACO: (pop. 84,300)‡			
Retail sales		— 25	— 2
Automotive stores		— 29	+ 5
Department and apparel store sales		— 14	— 10
Furniture and household stores		— 40	— 7
Lumber, building material and hardware stores		— 31	— 3
Postal receipts	$ 83,114	+ 5	+ 5
Building permits	$ 855,800	— 21	+ 46
Air express shipments	135	— 12	— 28
Bank debits to individual accounts (thousands)	$ 60,009	x	— 10
End-of-month deposits (thousands)*	$ 78,484	+ 1	— 2
Annual rate of deposit turnover	9.1	— 3	— 11
Unemployment	1,550	— 18	+ 29
Placements in employment	1,112	+ 59	+ 1
Nonagricultural civilian labor force	45,050	+ 2	+ 2
Percent of labor force unemployed	3.4	— 21	+ 26

*Exclues deposits to credit of banks.
xChange is less than one-half of one percent.
†Reported by the Federal Reserve Board of Dallas.
‡Preliminary 1950 Census.

TEXAS BUSINESS REVIEW

Published monthly by the Bureau of Business Research, College of Business Administration, The University of Texas, Austin 12, Texas

Material contained in this publication is not copyrighted and may be reproduced freely. Acknowledgment of source will be appreciated.
Subscription $2.00 per year.

William R. Spriegel ..... Dean
J. Anderson Fitzgerald ..... Consulting Dean

STAFF OF THE BUREAU OF BUSINESS RESEARCH

John R. Stockton, *Director*
Stanley A. Arbingast, *Assistant Director*
Eugene Beard, *Research Supervisor*
A. H. Chute, *Retailing Specialist*
W. N. Breswick, *International Trade Specialist*
Robert Ryan, *Editorial Assistant*
Evalyn Kaiser, *Statistical Assistant*
Frances Wilson, *Publications Assistant*
Peggy Curtice, *Library Assistant*
Marjorie Cornwell, *Secretary*
Diane Cocke, Mary Frances Going, Sylva Macrides, Juanita Tufares, *Office Assistants*
Richard Henshaw, Gus White, *Research Associates*
Lois Hendrix, Tommie Martin, May Lee Mok, Jo Overstreet, *Statistical Clerks*

Business Research Council

William R. Spriegel *(ex officio)*, J. Alton Burdine, F. L. Cox, Elizabeth Lanham and C. Aubrey Smith.

Co-operating Faculty

A. B. Cox, Cotton; and Charls E. Walker, Finance.

Research Assistants

Betty Anderson, Mary Andres, Joanne Barry, Tom Berry, Howard Brady, Katherine Brewton, Tom Burris, Frank Cadena, Bertrice Crowe, John Dubberley, Fletcher Etheridge, Edward Frost, Tom Greer, Gwyn Hopkins, Calvin Jayroe, Vera Jeffrey, Lee Roy Kern, William Lowe, David Nugent, Howard Rose, John Salter, Charles Stahl, Maida Welch, and Lester Wiland.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Texas Imports and Exports, 1950 1
The Business Situation in Texas 2
Retail Trade 4
Industrial Production 6
Construction 9
Agriculture 10
Labor 12
Prices 13
Finance 14
Availability of Detailed Foreign Trade Statistics 16
Local Business Conditions 18
Barometers of Texas Business 24

BAROMETERS OF TEXAS BUSINESS

	July 1951	June 1951	May 1951	Year-to-date average 1951	Average month 1950
GENERAL BUSINESS ACTIVITY					
†**Index of Texas Business Activity**	231	233	230	233	227
Index of bank debits in Texas cities	571	603	622	609	535
Income payments to individuals in the U.S. (billions—seasonally adjusted at annual rate)	———	$ 251.1	$ 249.8	$ 247.1	$ 222.8
Index of wholesale prices in the U.S. (1926=100, unadjusted)	179.2‡	181.7	182.9	182.2	161.4
Index of consumers' prices in Houston (unadjusted)	192.6	192.3	192.0	191.8	178.7
Index of consumers' prices in the U.S. (unadjusted)	185.5	185.2	185.4	184.4	172.0
Index of postal receipts in Texas cities	351	346	366	352	309
†Index of miscellaneous freight carloadings in the Southwestern District (17.6)	144	147	144	143	142
Business corporation charters issued (number)	———	150	280	241	263
Business failures (number)	11	7	7	8	15
TRADE					
†Index of total retail sales (adjusted for price changes) (47.7)*	188‡	194	194*	202	219
Index of total retail sales*	388	402	402	415	412
Durable goods stores*	495	524	531	544	553
Nondurable goods stores*	341	348	344	356	345
Index of department store sales in the U.S.	308‡	303	301	313	303
Ratio of credit sales to net sales in department and apparel stores	62.3	62.5	64.2	64.9	64.7
Ratio of collections to outstandings in department and apparel stores	45.5	44.6	43.7	45.5	46.3
Index of gasoline sales	———	253	254	252	234
PRODUCTION					
†Index of industrial electric power consumption (14.8)	450	444	428	422	355
†Index of crude runs to stills (4.5)	195	200	202	199	167
Index of wheat grindings	———	90	96	102	110
Index of cottonseed crushed	97	121	134	109	153
Index of Southern Pine production	———	117	137	124	128
Index of dairy product manufacturing	61	57	52	57	73
†Index of urban building permits (adjusted for price changes) (3.8)	125‡	153	176	199	264
Index of urban building permits	258‡	315	361	406	515
†Index of crude petroleum production (8.6)	226	221	224	218	184
Index of natural gas production	———	500	515	469	435
†Index of total electric power consumption (3.0)	514	491	461	467	406
Index of industrial production in the U.S.	215	222	223	221	200
Index of cement production	———	295	277	286	279
Construction contracts awarded (thousands)	$ 96,936	$ 98,960	$150,923	$122,713	$ 80,614
AGRICULTURE					
Index of farm cash income (unadjusted)	415	291	305	299	387
Index of prices received by farmers (unadjusted)	351	380	393	384	306
Index of prices paid by farmers in the U.S. (parity index, unadjusted) (1910–14=100)	282	282	283	280	256
Parity ratio for Texas	124	135	139	139	120
Index of prices received by farmers—livestock (unadjusted)	421	450	459	457	356
Index of prices received by farmers—all crops (unadjusted)	298	326	343	329	262
FINANCE					
Loans, reporting member banks in the Dallas Federal Reserve District (millions)	$ 1,425	$ 1,435	$ 1,453	$ 1,459	$ 1,273
Loans and investments, reporting member banks in the Dallas Federal Reserve District (millions)	$ 2,636	$ 2,620	$ 2,609	$ 2,643	$ 2,583
Demand deposits adjusted, reporting member banks in the Dallas Federal Reserve District (millions)	$ 2,190	$ 2,131	$ 2,163	$ 2,184	$ 2,067
Bank debits in 20 cities (millions)	$ 4,513	$ 4,795	$ 4,816	$ 4,840	$ 4,322
Revenue receipts of the State Comptroller (thousands)	$ 47,055	$ 51,925	$ 66,465	$ 53,853	$ 48,982
Federal Internal Revenue collections (thousands)	$ 85,867	$189,645	$135,242	$173,499	$109,990
LABOR					
Total manufacturing employment (thousands)*	394.3	391.1	383.9	385.5	351.6
Durable goods employment (thousands)*	180.4	176.5	173.3	172.1	147.6
Nondurable goods employment (thousands)*	213.9	214.6	210.6	213.6	204.0
Nonagricultural civilian labor force in 17 labor market areas (thousands)	1,543	1,534	1,519	1,503	1,431
Unemployment in 17 labor market areas	40,263	39,010	44,120	47,479	62,810
Placements in 17 labor market areas	47,920	50,070	39,795	35,813	29,995
Percent of labor force unemployed in 17 labor market areas	3.1	3.3	2.9	3.2	4.4

All figures are for Texas unless otherwise indicated. All indexes are based on the average months for 1935–39 except where indicated and are adjusted for seasonal variation (except annual indexes).

†The index of business activity is a weighted average of the indexes indicated by a dagger (†). The weight given each index in computing the composite is given in parentheses.

‡Preliminary.

*Revised.

Retail sales indexes have been tentatively revised on the basis of preliminary 1948 Census of Business reports.

Manufacturing employment estimates have been adjusted to First Quarter 1950 benchmarks.